

## The third archaeological season at Podere Cannicci (Civitella Paganico – Grosseto)

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*This paper illustrates the results of the third archaeological season that took place at the late Etruscan and Republican site of Podere Cannicci in the territory of Civitella Paganico (Grosseto, Italy). Excavations revealed new features of the settlement, allowing researchers to consolidate the idea that Podere Cannicci was a Roman vicus gravitating around a sanctuary area; the latter was focused on fertility cults as a number of votive offerings were collected during the previous investigations. The research concentrated on two different areas: the first one showed the existence of other rooms belonging to the original Republican building while, as the excavation areas were enlarged, a second rural complex was discovered, with a possible wine cellar still preserving dolia in situ. Trial trenches were also opened in the surroundings of the main site to better understand the nature of the site and its possible developments into the Imperial period.*

### Introduction

Between May and June 2019, the third archaeological season at the late Etruscan and Republican site of Podere Cannicci took place. The excavations are part of a wider project aimed at defining the changing settlement patterns and economic transformations in the area of the middle valley of the Ombrone river that flows just a few kilometers away<sup>1</sup>. Carried out by the Department of Classics of the University at Buffalo, in partnership with The Cooper Union University and Michigan State University, the project has now reached its fourth year of investigations (fig. 1).

The area of Podere Cannicci was already known in the archaeological literature, as rescue excavations were conducted here in 1989–1990 (figg. 1-2)<sup>2</sup>. The remains of a rural farmstead were recognized during the laying out of a gas pipeline, together with a series of votive offerings<sup>3</sup>. A series of field surveys conducted at this time revealed a number of archaeological features, such as scatters of pottery and metallurgic wasters, and a possible cistern as part of a much larger settlement; the main complex was destroyed by a violent fire at the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, most likely in conjunction with the outbreak of the Social Wars between Marius and Sulla. A hoard of silver *denarii* recovered during the rescue excavations, and dating to that exact period, seems to fully support the chronology of the abandonment<sup>4</sup>.

The farmstead is located in a small depression among gently sloping fields, and it is naturally supplied by a number of water springs. In antiquity, the site should have been connected with some road systems, developing between the coast and Mount Amiata. Recent and past research seems to confirm this, positioning Podere Cannicci in a privileged location that may also justify the presence of a nearby sanctuary<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The excavations are part of the IMPERO Project ([www.imperoproject.com](http://www.imperoproject.com)). For an overview of the project, see SEBASTIANI 2017. The project also runs excavations at the medieval deserted village of Castellaraccio di Monteverdi (fig. 1, C) HOBART, CARABIA 2020.

<sup>2</sup> See BARBIERI 2005; SEBASTIANI et al. 2018; SEBASTIANI et al. 2019.

<sup>3</sup> FABBRI 2006; FABBRI 2019, 96-100.

<sup>4</sup> ADEMBRI 2001.

<sup>5</sup> CIAMPOLTRINI 2001; BARBIERI 2005.

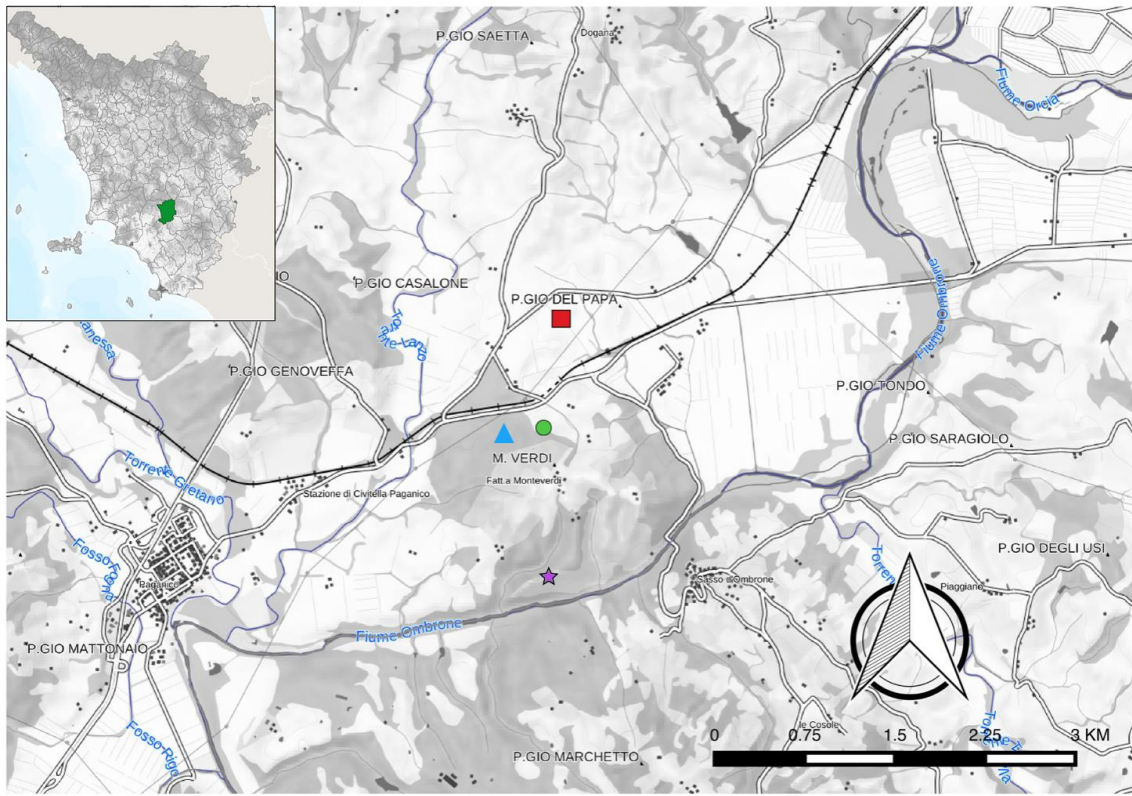


Fig. 1. General map showing the archaeological evidence within the Monteverdi estate; Podere Cannicci with the late Etruscan and Republican site – Red Square; the medieval castle of Castellaraccio – Purple Star; the Republican scatter/farmstead on the slopes of the hill (Green Circle). The Blue Triangle indicates a natural water spring.

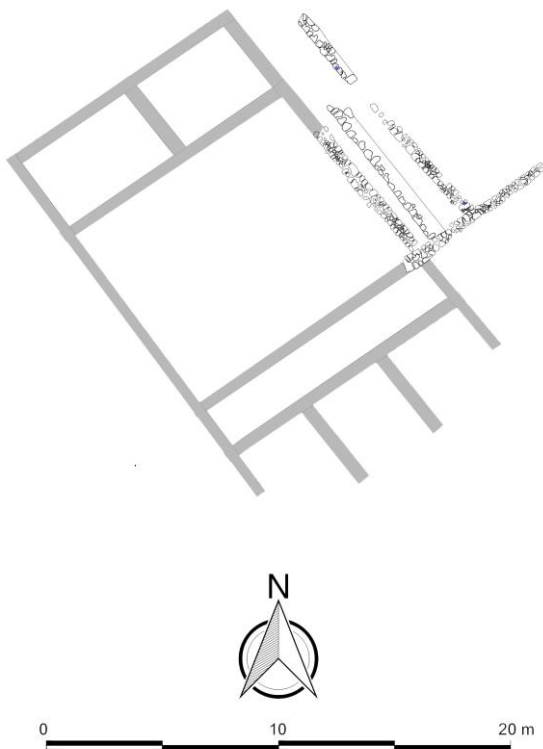


Fig. 2. The Republican building excavated by the Soprintendenza in 1989-1990.



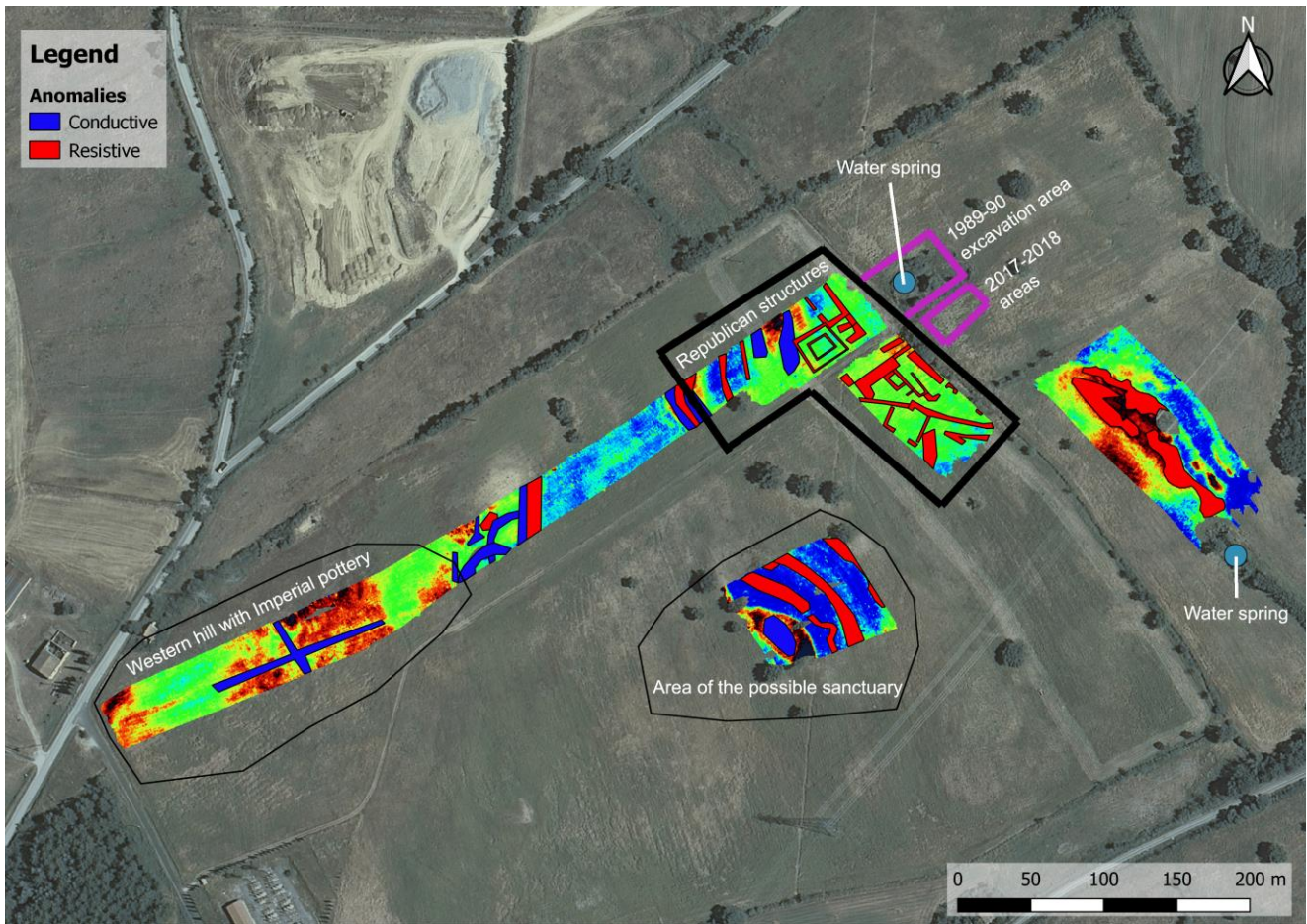


Fig. 3. Results of the geophysical campaign in 2018, after Sebastiani et al. 2019.

As the excavations started in 2017, it appeared clear that the settlement was much wider and more densely populated than originally thought. It was for these reasons that we decided to carry out a geophysical prospection in 2018, the results of which were recently published (fig. 3)<sup>6</sup>. One major task of the 2019 campaign was to test the anomalies that the *Automatic Resistivity Profiler* (ARP©) showed; we opted to open a new excavation trench (Area 1000), located immediately west of the original research area (fig. 4). The latter continued to be investigated, allowing the team to better detail the overall plan of the settlement by exposing additional rooms most likely dedicated to manufacturing activities.

This report also introduces a very preliminary phasing for the site at Podere Cannicci. The excavations back in the 1980s did not produce any pottery sequence and all the chronology was based on the assumptions provided by the excavators. Only the votive offerings received detailed analysis together with the hoard of silver *denarii*<sup>7</sup> recovered during the excavations. Three main periods, however, can be recognized. Period 1 is the most elusive together with Period 3; it belongs to the Etruscan moment of founding and use of the area at Podere Cannicci, and the only evidence for it is suggested by the presence of some of the votive offerings that date back to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.<sup>8</sup> Little is known for this period and archaeology has so far failed to provide any further information that can elucidate the Etruscan phase at Cannicci.

<sup>6</sup> SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2019.

<sup>7</sup> For the votive offerings, see at last FABBRI 2019, 96-101; the hoard was published in ADEMBRI 2001. BARBIERI 2005 presents chronologies for the site, although no pottery nor any other kind of material culture was analyzed. The impossibility of retrieving any of the original documentation for the 1989-1990 excavation seasons forces a necessary reassessment of the material culture that we aim at producing in the next future. In the meantime, our phasing is related only to the 2017-2019 excavation seasons.

<sup>8</sup> FABBRI 2019, 101.



Fig. 4. The archaeological evidence at Podere Cannicci at the end of the 2019 season.

Period 2 illustrated the different phases of construction, use and decline of the settlement in the Roman Republican period; at this stage of the research, we are able to provide a preliminary phasing between the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and the first 20 years of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. In the table below, we summarize these three main phases. It goes without saying that this is based on the preliminary analysis of pottery presented by Massimo Brando in this paper (see below) and it may change with the future archaeological activities.

|  | Phase I                               | Phase II   | Phase III  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Chronology</b>                              | 3rd century BC                        | 3rd to 2nd century BC  | First 20 years of the 1st century BC   |
| <b>Main activities</b>                         | Construction of the site              | Occupation of the site and related activities  | Destruction and abandonment of the site  |
| <b>Structures with evidence for the phases</b> | Area 1 - Room III<br>Area 1 - Drain A | Area 1 - Room I<br>Area 1 - Room II<br>Area 1 - Room III<br>Area 1 - Room IV<br>Area 1 - Room V<br>Area 1 - Drain A<br>Area 1 - Drain B<br>Area 1000 | Area 1 - Room I<br>Area 1 - Room II<br>Area 1 - Room III<br>Area 1 - Room IV<br>Area 1 - Room V<br>Area 1 - Drain A<br>Area 1 - Drain B<br>Area 1000 |
| <b>Contexts cited in this report</b>           | 4(?), 11(?), 41                       | 8, 40, 55, 62, 63  | 2, 7, 9, 35, 36, 56, 59, 60  |

Tab. 1. Phasing of Period 2 at Podere Cannicci - Roman Republican period between the 3rd century BC and the first 20 years of the 1st century BC.

Finally, Period 3 is assigned to all the activities that occurred at the site from its abandonment and collapse, until the end of the Roman period. Yet again, a little evidence supports this timeframe. At the two main areas of excavations (Area 1 and 1000) fragments of *terra sigillata* and early to mid-Imperial coins were found both during the 1980s and in our more recent investigations<sup>9</sup>. Moreover, the geophysics carried out in 2018 clearly shows a larger settlement west of the Republican site where field surveys also intercepted large amounts of *terra sigillata*<sup>10</sup>, suggesting a change in the settlement pattern soon after the end of the Social War.

Lastly, during the 2019 excavation season a trial trench was also opened on the slopes of the main hill of Monteverdi, almost 1 kilometer southwest of the major complex (fig. 1). Here an interesting scatter of archaeological material was accidentally discovered during some field survey<sup>11</sup>, and the trench allowed us to better comprehend its nature and function.

We can anticipate that the results of the third archaeological season at Podere Cannicci, in conjunction with the evidence retrieved on the slopes of Monteverdi, may help to delineate a different settlement organization in the Roman period; they suggest the presence of a wider settlement, most likely a *vicus*, connected to a nearby sanctuary, the function and the location of which will be addressed in the following paragraphs. The village had a number of structures, equipped with similar features like cellars and arranged around porticoed areas/central courtyards. C<sup>14</sup> analysis, material culture studies and numismatic evidence all point to a violent abandonment, due to a wide fire, that happened within the first 25-30 years of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC; nonetheless, the recovery of scattered early and mid-Imperial period materials, such as pottery and a couple of coins, suggests that the area was reoccupied, most likely with different functions. At the same time, while Podere Cannicci was in use, a hypothetical small farmstead was constructed on the slopes of Monteverdi: its plan and full chronology are yet to be defined, but a consistent assemblage of late 2<sup>nd</sup>-to-early-1<sup>st</sup> century BC pottery was recorded and points to the presence of a rural residence.

A.S.

## *The excavation*

### *Area 1*

#### *Introduction*

Following the discoveries of the 2018 campaign, the excavation team turned its attention towards the western end of the site, extending the area of concentration by approximately 3 meters. Here, the 2019 field season uncovered a continuous, light-brown clay, bearing patches of burning, charcoal, pottery, and material culture; its removal demonstrated the continuations of both Rooms I and IV as well as establishing the relationship and continuity of Drain B.

#### *Rooms I and VI*

The excavation area of Room I was expanded in the 2019 season in order to investigate the eastern limits of both the hypothesized blacksmith's workshop, discovered in 2017, and the burn layer, which was discovered in 2017 and confirmed further east in 2018<sup>12</sup>. 2019 excavations conducted in Room I, however, heralded the discovery of a smaller, demarcated zone, now called Room VI, that embodied the area's earliest strata discovered thus far. It was here that the season's investigations focused and from here that multiple phases were brought to light.

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<sup>9</sup> BARBIERI 2005, 128 reports the collection of some Imperial coins; excavations in 2019 in Area 1000 found two possible early Imperial coins (not presented here and currently under restoration) as well as a few fragments of 1<sup>st</sup> c. BC to 1<sup>st</sup> c. AD *terra sigillata*. Back in 2017, a fragment of Goudineau 41 was found in the main filling of Drain A (Area 1) dated to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2018, 14.

<sup>10</sup> See SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2019 and BARBIERI 2005, 128.

<sup>11</sup> A trial field survey in this part of the estate at Monteverdi was carried out by a specialized team of the National Museum of Prague as part of a future collaboration with the IMPERO Project. Our thanks go to Helena Svobodová, Josef Souček, Marika Tisucká and Pavel Tizt.

<sup>12</sup> SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2017: 11-13; SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2018: 3.



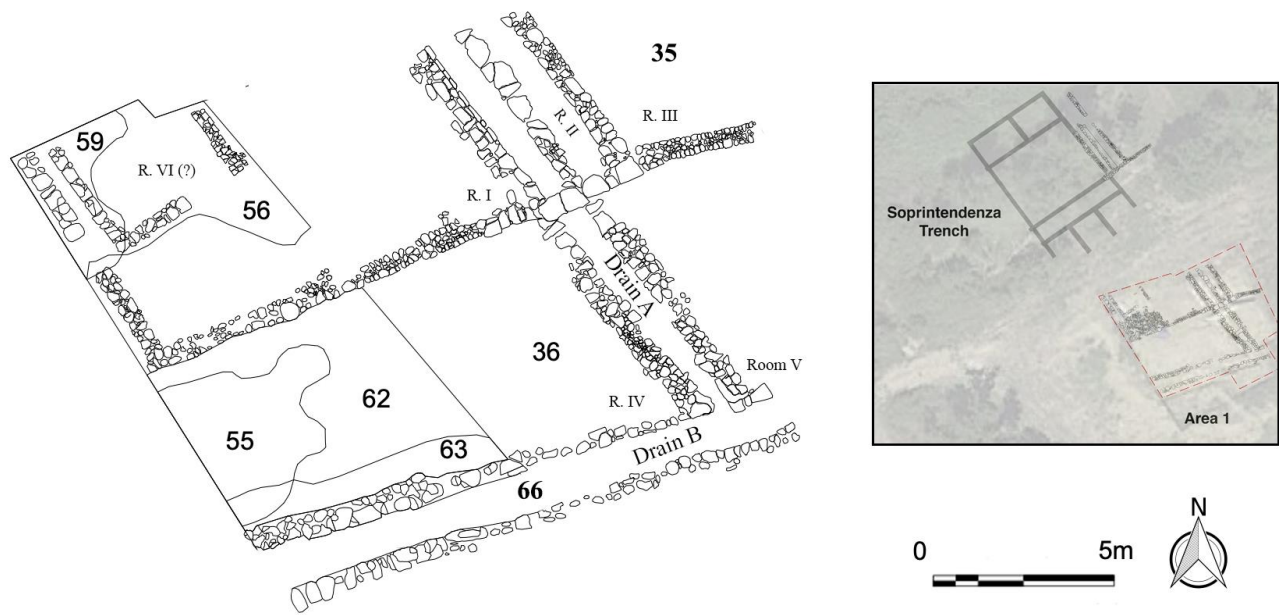


Fig. 5. Plan of the excavation Area 1, with all the Contexts cited in the paper.

Room VI contained a thick, yellow clay integrated with sandy patches that was largely devoid of both material culture and traces of productive or cooking activities. It was bounded on three sides, and the northeastern wall exhibited a construction not previously attested at Podere Cannicci: approximately 2 meters in length and ½-meter in width, this wall was made from smooth, stacked tile and seems to be attached to another, similarly composed and perpendicular wall headed northwest along the edge of the excavation. An expansion of the trench is required both to understand this and to discover the northwestern boundary of Room VI, as its northeastern and southwestern bounds continue past the limits of the excavation. Further, a patch of charcoal found in the eastern corner of Room VI at a gap between its structures may represent the remains of a burnt door, which would have allowed access to the rest of Room I.

This threshold opens onto a collapse of tightly-packed, small-to-medium-sized stones that were punctuated by some bits of tile and pottery and interspersed with a hard, compact, and lighter-brown clay. The collapse terminates in a void at the threshold but is contained by walls on its southwestern and southeastern sides, from which the stones likely stem, and the northeastern edge of the trench. Another void-termination is present just outside Room VI's southern corner, where a light-yellow/brown, hard-packed clay lacking material or debris is thought to represent the threshold to the larger enclosure as well as the narrow space between Room VI and the outer edge of Room I.

The collapse is representative of a moment of abandonment in the larger Context of Room I. Over the area of Room VI and almost entirely obscuring its delineating structures was a reddish clay with yellow streaks that contained charcoal as well as disintegrated brick and tile; this was both adjacent to and overlain by a reddish-pink and black, sandy clay that was riddled with bricks, the orange powder of their disintegration, and pebbles (Contexts **56** and **59**<sup>13</sup>, fig. 5). Together, these Contexts produced a few bronze coins and iron nails, while **56** further supplied a bronze button and scraps of lead. All collapse layers in this zone were covered by **36**, from which point these structures fell out of use; nevertheless, the wealth of material culture, two possible terracotta votives<sup>14</sup> found in the southwestern corner of Room I in particular, represent continued activity and significance in this zone, and the evidence of burning may attest to perishable structures.

<sup>13</sup> Context **59** was found largely under a small extent of tarp delineating the limits of the 1989-1990 excavation campaign, which had focused beyond the borders of our trench. SEBASTIANI et al. 2018: 6-7.

<sup>14</sup> These are a miniature cup and a side profile of a face with a well-defined ear. Thanks go to Massimo Brando for the preliminary characterization of the second specimen; both objects await further analysis.

## Room IV

Similar to Room I, the expansion of Room IV was an attempt to better understand the working area of the room and its relation to the rest of the site. The earliest level reached in the 2019 excavation season was Context **62**, composed of small, well-packed pebbles and pottery (fig. 5). The Context was firm and contained yellow and dark streaks within it. With these considerations in mind, Context **62** represents what can be interpreted as a floor. With this interpretation in mind, Room IV appears to have been an outdoor space of occupation<sup>15</sup>. Beside Context **62**, and likely filling a cut through it, was a Context characterized by its mustard hue and wet sand consistency (**63**); the Context also contained charcoal spots at the interface, which could represent the preparation of the well-packed floor that is Context **62**. Another possibility is that this Context (**63**) filled a construction trench that cut through **62** for Drain B. Covering both Contexts was a second, densely packed layer consisting of a light brown hue and containing a rich amount of finds such as tiles, animal bones, iron slag, loom weights, a bronze coin, a lead tube, iron nails, a bronze button, a terracotta handle, a bronze ring and a spindle<sup>16</sup>. This Context (**55**) was marked by a large amount of loom weights, 15 in total. This sizable deposit of goods associated with weaving and artifacts pertaining to female work suggest the possibility of textile production nearby, possibly within the room itself. The rich amount of finds as well as the tiles present suggests that this Context could represent a layer of abandonment. Finally, covering the areas of both Room I and IV was Context **36**, revealed at the very beginning of the 2019 excavation season. In this Context we find another rich area of finds, including animal bones, pottery sherds (Black gloss and coarse ware), a bronze coin, a bronze hairpin, and possibly an iron tool.

## Drain B:

In an attempt to determine the status of Drain B, which was found near the end of the 2018 season's excavations, the 2019 excavation's enlargement included the area that Drain B was expected to pass under. The earliest level reached was **66**, situated within the drain itself; the Context was marked by its soft, sandy consistency with prevalent black, red and yellow streaks. It contained sherds of pottery, animal bone, and charcoal fragments (fig. 5). The walls of the drain held similar finds: animal bones, sherds of pottery, metal slag and notably, a bronze ring. Both of Drain B's walls run on a NE-SW axis, and similarly to Rooms I and IV, was found situated underneath Context **36**. Observations during both the 2018 and 2019 excavations show that Drain B continues, in a technique that resembles the latest phase of the construction of Drain A, and thus is contemporary with the latest phase of that drain's construction<sup>17</sup>. Another point worth noting is that, unlike Drain A, nowhere along Drain B's now exposed areas has a cover been located. This suggests that the deposits found in both walls (Contexts **49**, **50**) would likely have occurred following the destruction or degradation of the top of Drain B, which would have occurred after the initial abandonment of Room IV, suggesting either a reuse of the area with the purposeful filling of Drain B or the degradation of materials over time.

E.W., M.D.McIII

## Area 1000

As anticipated in the introduction, during the 2018 excavation campaign, geophysical investigations were conducted, with the *Automatic Resistivity Profiler* (ARP©) method, covering an area of about 8 hectares around the Podere Cannicci farm site. Among the most significant anomalies, the most promising was a section, then called Area 1000, immediately southwest of the main excavations and separated from it by a modern ditch for

<sup>15</sup> While this is the preliminary assessment, more research must be done to assert this point. For more references towards a crude floor at the site, see SEBASTIANI et al. 2019: 3-6. It is also worth noting the presence of items relating to 'women's labour' with the recognition of numerous loom weights and fragments, a spindle, multiple rings, a button and, finally, a hairpin (embedded in wall **8**). While the source used is for the Etruscan site Murlo, the continuity of materials may be drawn from the findings and the closeness of both time and geographical space to Podere Cannicci. See GLEBA 2008: 165-178.

<sup>16</sup> This spindle is the first textile tool other than loom weights discovered at the site, strengthening the image of a productive and not solely dedicatory use of the latter objects. See SEBASTIANI et al. 2019: 6 for considerations of textile tools in Podere Cannicci's context.

<sup>17</sup> See SEBASTIANI et al. 2018: 3-4 for a further analysis of the existing drains to understand the building techniques and their change over time.

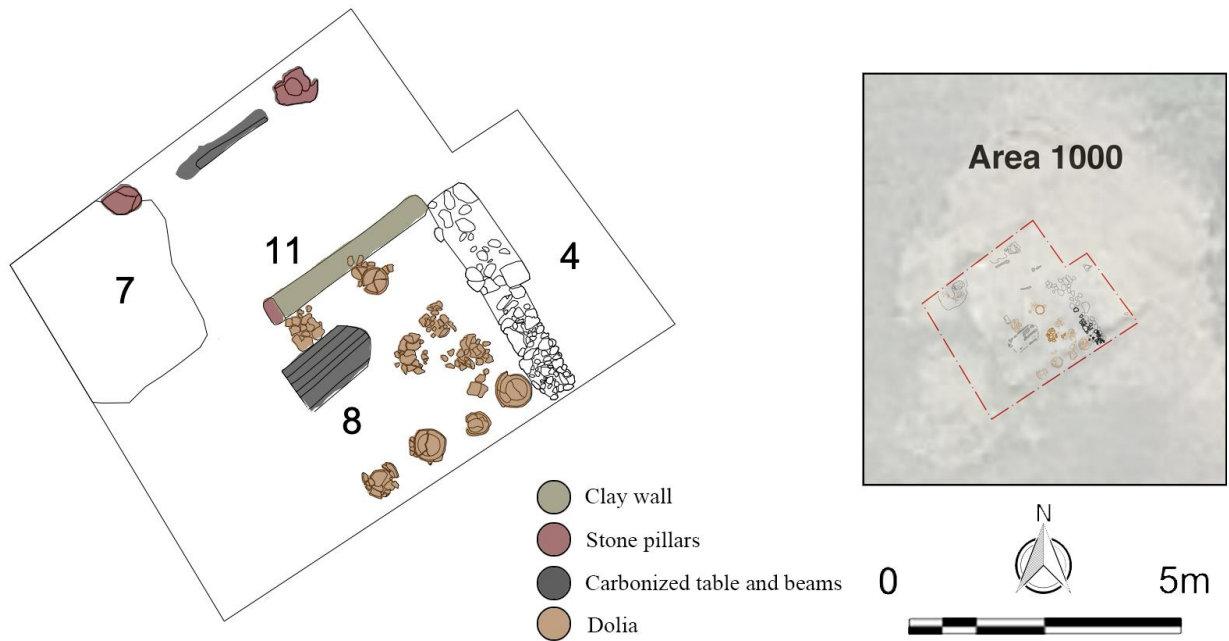


Fig. 6. Photo of Room IV following the removal of Context 55, demonstrating the continuations of both walls 49 and 50, the rough floor of Context 62, the yellow pigmentation in Context 63, the continuation of wall 8 and the revelation of Context 66 within Drain B.



Fig. 7. Photo showing one of the carbonized beams found within Area 1000.

rainwater, in which alignments seemed to suggest possible structures (fig. 3). The potentiality of this new site was confirmed also by the discovery of a surface scatter of different ceramic classes, especially broken tiles and roof tiles in a highly fragmented condition due to modern ploughing of the soil. The opening of an area of modest size (approximately 10x10 meters), with the intention of investigating the reliability of geophysical investigations and the archaeological potential of other areas around the main site, immediately revealed substantial traces of a new portion of the settlement (fig. 6). Area 1000 was indeed entirely covered by a layer formed of tiles, extremely shattered due to modern ploughing but interpretable, without any doubt, as a roof collapse. After removing this Context, under a few centimetres from the modern ground surface, we found traces of a destruction by fire, characterized by burned mud bricks and at least 5 parallel beams completely carbonized and belonging to the roof (fig. 7). Under that, at least nine medium and small *dolia* were recognized (fig. 8); some of



them (*dolia* 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7) seem to be still preserved *in situ* due to the finding of their bottoms completely undamaged (fig. 8-11). These should push the interpretation towards the presence of a storage room and a warehouse used for stocking different commodities. *Dolia* 2, 3, 4 and 7 are perfectly aligned along the eastern section with their rims and sides collapsed inside, together with *dolium* 1 and (possibly) *dolium* 6 aligned with the west wall (see *infra*), while the others have been found extremely fragmented and scattered throughout the room. Jars 2, 4 and 7 were partially sunk into the ground while the others must have been simply put on the surface. *Dolia* 1, 2, 4 and 7 have the same size (approximately 30 centimetres radius at the bottom), while



Fig. 8. Overview of Area 1000, with the *dolia* still *in situ* and the rest of the room, with large traces of fire. At the center, the remains of the carbonized table with a rectangular shape.



Fig. 9. Close-up of one of the *dolia* before the removal of the fill.



Fig. 10. Close-up of one of the *dolia* before the removal of the fill.

*dolium* 3 is a little smaller. The post-depositional Context, especially the presence of the collapse inside the jars, makes us think that they were empty or filled with some liquids when the room was destroyed by a violent fire. Although waiting for future residue analysis (lipids or others), the size of them suggests that they may have contained oil or wine, although water for production activities cannot be excluded.



Fig. 11. Close-up of one of the *dolia* before the removal of the fill.

The room is delimited to the north by a dry-stone wall made of small-and-medium-sized pebbles and stones (wall 4) that is not well-preserved. It likely constituted the base for a *pisé* wall, a building technique well-known during Roman times, especially in productive and rural Contexts, and documented also elsewhere in the site (fig. 12) To the west (fig. 6), the presence of a *pisé* wall (wall 11), preserved at the foundation level with its collapse (Context 9) and totally combusted, has been recognized. This wall is perpendicular and attached to the stone one, and it has a N-S orientation, finishing with a rectangular square stone pillar. Wall 4 had to be the external wall of the





Fig. 12. Remains of the clay wall intercepted in Area 1000.



Fig. 13. Remains of the burnt lintel of the canopy in Area 1000.

room. In fact, over wall **4**, in between it and the northern section, the Context was sandy and completely devoid of materials, confirming an open area deeply affected by alluvial deposits. In light of this, the N-S wall (wall **11**), completely built in clay, had to constitute some internal or functional division.

This hypothesis could be corroborated by the identification of two stone pillars at the limit of the western section, suggesting a canopy or a porch that must have represented the entrance space of the warehouse. In between the pillars, we recorded a burned beam which perhaps constituted the lintel of the canopy (fig. 13). In between wall **11** and the pillars, a hard, red-black layer formed the floor of this portion of the area. To the south, perpendicular to wall **11** and aligned with the southwest pillar, the trace of a possible third wall closing the area was recognized where the *dolia* row seems to be interrupted. Over this trace, there are no *dolia* or pieces of them. If that were the case, the squared stone pillar would constitute the entrance of the room; nevertheless, it is not yet certain that this faint line on the ground is the negative of a totally collapsed clay wall or if, in this part of the area, the room was open or continued. Over the *dolia* row, towards the south, the area turned out to be poor in material, essentially formed by a sandy, brown Context with scattered broken tiles and little stones, suggesting an open area. To the east, the actual excavation section has prevented us from understanding the real size of the storage room. The extent of the room, well-defined by the presence of the *dolia* and other material completely absent in the rest of the area, may be squared or at least elongated towards the east. The limits of the room are also defined by a hard and compact Context within the walls that represents the crude floor of the warehouse. In the southwestern corner of the site, between the south pillar and the southern section, the situation seems to be more corrupted and is not easy to understand. Under a square, red-brownish and yellow layer (Context **7**), we identified a hard Context, concentrated only in this part of the site and composed by compacted pebbles, probably what is left of a crude floor. This floor was cut in the southwestern corner. This hole has not been excavated, but the fill is extremely soft and dark.

The destruction deposits of the building, perhaps destroyed by a fire, were found to be particularly well-preserved. In fact, besides numerous burned beams, documented and sampled, in the central area of the room was found the carbonized remains of what must have been a rectangular table (Context **8**) (figs. 14-15). The excavation did return some of the original materials; however, in the area exactly over the charred table, we registered the highest concentration with the discovery of some coins, a bronze ring, and a perfectly preserved lamp, as well as plates of black gloss ware, alongside a large lead bullion, melted because of the fire, which was perhaps used for the repair of the *dolia*. Amongst significant dating materials, all found just over the table, should be noted a *patera*/plate with a flat profile produced in black gloss ware type Lamboglia 4/Morel 1410 (series 1411), dated around the second half/end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC and probably belonging to Volterra production, and a lamp, as far as we know a unique example (maybe a transition type), preliminarily dated to the

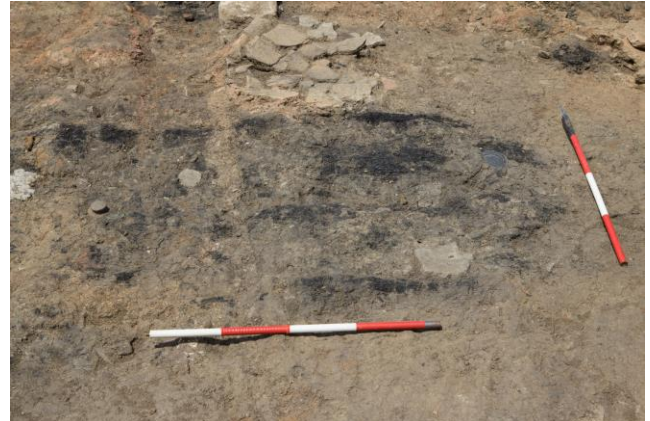


Fig. 14. Remains of the carbonized table, still in situ, looking east.

Fig. 15. Remains of the carbonized table, still in situ, looking north.

late Republican period<sup>18</sup>. It is worth noting that an entire iron anvil was recovered from the topsoil, and it certainly belonged to one of the rooms of this new complex. This also allows us to speculate on the presence of a metal workshop in this second building at Podere Cannicci.

What continues to be unusual, stimulating further reflexions on mobility and economic integration, is the almost total lack of amphorae, considering the size, the function and the position of our sites (see Brando *infra*). At this moment, we have little traces of residential activities or rooms but rather just storage or productive ones, as in the rest of the site. The dating of the buildings seems coeval with that of the other areas, thus making one think of a single large production site with different structures.

E.V.

#### *A trial trench at Monteverdi*

The late Renaissance hunting manor of Monteverdi sits on a hilltop, overlooking the flow of the Ombrone river. The gentle slopes of the hill are covered with dense woodland and some agricultural fields that were tentatively surveyed in the spring of 2019. The discovery of a small scatter of Roman pottery along the northern side of the hill led to the opening of a trial trench in the summer of the same year<sup>19</sup>. Once the topsoil was removed, a clay deposit rich in pottery fragments appeared (fig. 16). Building materials, although highly fragmented, were also present, suggesting that a small structure would be lying underneath. The removal of this Context provided a new stratum, again rich in archaeological material but with no evidence of walls or similar features (fig. 17).



Fig. 16. The first archaeological deposit in the trial trench on the slopes of the Monteverdi hill.

<sup>18</sup> This preliminary information was provided by Massimo Brando. For the lamp, see Brando *infra*. For the different phases see the introduction of this paper.

<sup>19</sup> Once again, this scatter was discovered during a trial survey carried out by a team of the National Museum of Prague in 2019.





Fig. 17. The second archaeological deposit in the trial trench on the slopes of the Monteverdi hill.

Overall, the chronology range of the assemblage spans between the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC<sup>20</sup>.

The absence of any structural remains may be explained by the reduced size of the trial trench and the high possibility that a structure could be recognized in the immediate proximity of the excavation area; nonetheless, the assemblage remains of a certain interest as it is composed mainly by kitchen and common ware, with sporadic fragments of black gloss ware. This seems to go well with the presence of a small farmstead, abandoned sometime during the Social Wars, in parallel with the situation better defined at Podere Cannicci. The highly fragmented shape of the pottery sherds and the absence of any wall may also be evidence of some disturbance due to continuous agricultural activities, as this slope was used as a vineyard until a few

years ago. The proximity of the trench to a natural spring (fig. 1) where Roman material was recovered in the past may also suggest the presence of a small house connected with agricultural activities in late Republican times. The future archaeological seasons will expand the investigation area in order to better locate the original site and comprehend the settlement networks around the main hilltop of Monteverdi.

A.S.

#### *The pottery assemblage from Podere Cannicci. A first assessment from Rooms III and IV (Phases I-III)*

This note presents the preliminary study of the pottery assemblage coming from some Contexts investigated in the previous seasons<sup>21</sup>: Contexts from Phase I and II located in Room III (**41** and **40**, and from Phase III (**35** and **36**) located both in Room III and in Room IV.

Together, these Contexts returned 3,487 pottery fragments, or 325 vessels identifiable from diagnostic elements, and represent 55% of the overall pottery assemblage in our database (6,399)<sup>22</sup>. These Contexts were selected as they are a significant sample of the material culture of the site, showing trends in consumption and trade.

With 3,284 fragments, common ware is the most attested pottery class although this presents an elevated degree of fragmentation, resulting in only 59 identified individuals. This elevated fragmentation characterized, nonetheless, the overall pottery assemblage<sup>23</sup>. Kitchen ware is present with 1,971 fragments and 88 individuals, black gloss ware has 532 fragments and 108 individuals, there are 484 fragments of amphorae and 12 individuals, *opus doliare* has 55 fragments and 14 individuals, the “Presigillata” or Hellenistic Red Slip Ware counts 33 fragments and 23 individuals, while the Pompeian Red Ware has only 4 fragments and individuals. Other classes encompass 36 fragments for 32 individuals, including some loom weights (fig. 18).

#### *Phase I. Room III- Context 41*

From this phase were recovered 652 fragments for a total of 66 individuals (fig. 19).

<sup>20</sup> Preliminary chronology for this assemblage was provided by Massimo Brando; further research is needed to quantify the assemblage and to determine its final chronology.

<sup>21</sup> SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2019.

<sup>22</sup> The database also contains fragments coming from Contexts **1** (with the largest evidence of 662 fragments), **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **12**, **23**, **25**, **28**.

<sup>23</sup> For the methodology applied and the risks of a high degree of fragmentation, see CECI, SANTANGELI VALENZANI 2016 and cited bibliography there.

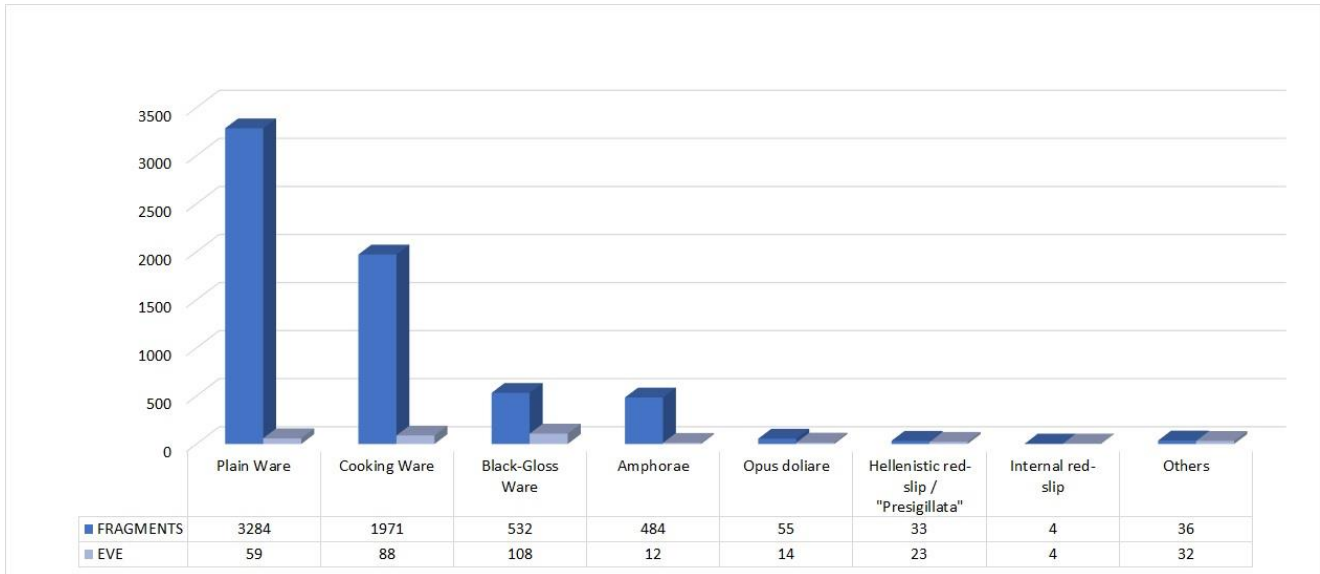


Fig. 18. EVE and fragment frequency of all the pottery classes.

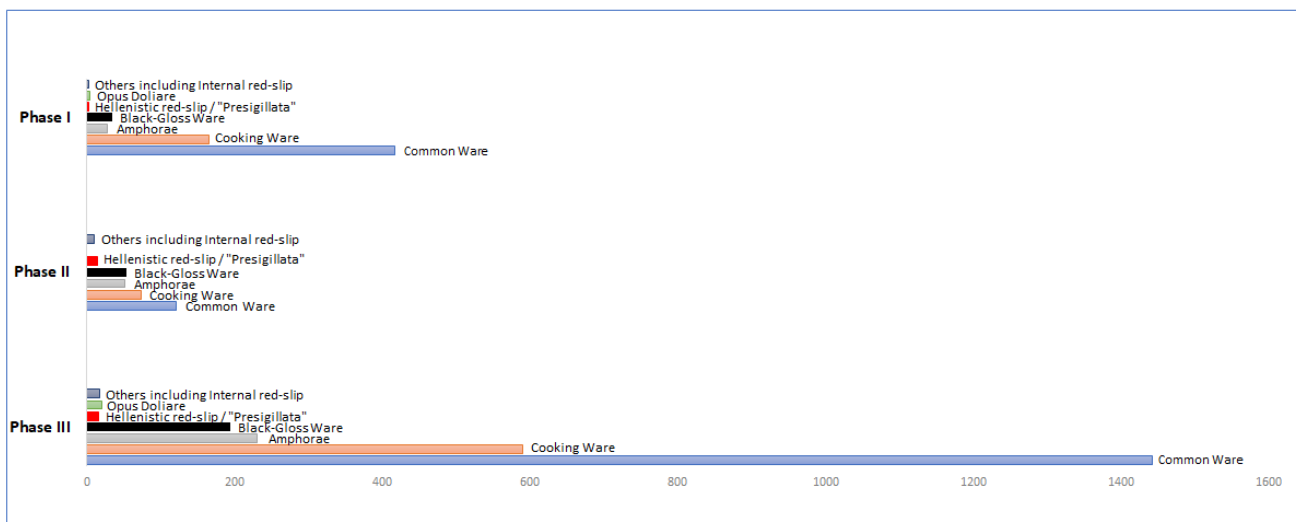


Fig. 19. Fragment frequency of pottery classes for Phases I, II and III.

### Common Ware

Common ware constituted 64% of the total assemblage, corresponding to 412 fragments. Unfortunately, the extremely high fragmentation of the assemblage means that the majority of the fragments is represented by non-diagnostic walls; among the 20 recognized individuals, only one is associated with a specific type: it is a rim and a wall of a Dyson FG 61-62 bowl, dated to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC<sup>24</sup>.

### Kitchen Ware

Kitchen ware covers 25% of the assemblage with 165 fragments. In this case as well, the fragmentation is very high: 83% is, in fact, constituted by non-diagnostic walls, and there are only 28 recognized individuals.

<sup>24</sup> DYSON 1976: 48.

Among them, 3 individuals belong to the Dyson CF 24/Olcese Type 2 *ollas*, dated at Cosa between the first quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century and the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, a chronology substantially confirmed by parallels with other sites<sup>25</sup>. The Dyson CF 30<sup>26</sup>/Olcese Type 3a *ollas* with almond-shaped rim are contemporary, the production of which seems to continue at least for the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>27</sup>; the Dyson CF 60 lid, similar to Type 2 by Olcese and dated between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, is attested by 2 individuals<sup>28</sup>. Finally, the Dyson FG 28<sup>29</sup> *olla* is dated at Cosa within the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and is assimilated to Olcese Type 2.

### Amphorae

Amphorae are only represented by 28 fragments, of which just one rim can be attributed to the common Vanderersch MGS VI/RMR VI, while the rest of the assemblage is too fragmented to try any identification.

### Black Gloss Ware

Black gloss ware undoubtedly represents the key class for defining the chronologies of the Contexts here analyzed (fig. 20). The ware is attested in this phase with 34 fragments or 19 individuals, for a little less than 5% of the assemblage (fig. 21, in gray production wastes). The vessels indicate that the Context ended at least during the second half or the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. The Morel 7273 beaker is most likely a Volterra or northern Etruscan production of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>30</sup>, and it is present with 2 fragments belonging to 2 individuals, one of which indicates a local production. Other shapes are attested with just one individual each. We have already seen the Morel 2252a *patera* before, while the Campana A Morel 2234 *patera* has a chronology spanning from the middle to the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>31</sup>. The remaining individuals belong to types produced between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC: the Morel 1123 plate with everted rim is the only vessel in common with the Phase II; the Morel 1552 cup is most likely datable to the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC; the Morel 2525/2526 is a well-attested product in Etruria between the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the first quarter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC<sup>32</sup>. The Morel 1333b plate, furthermore, dated to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, is considered to

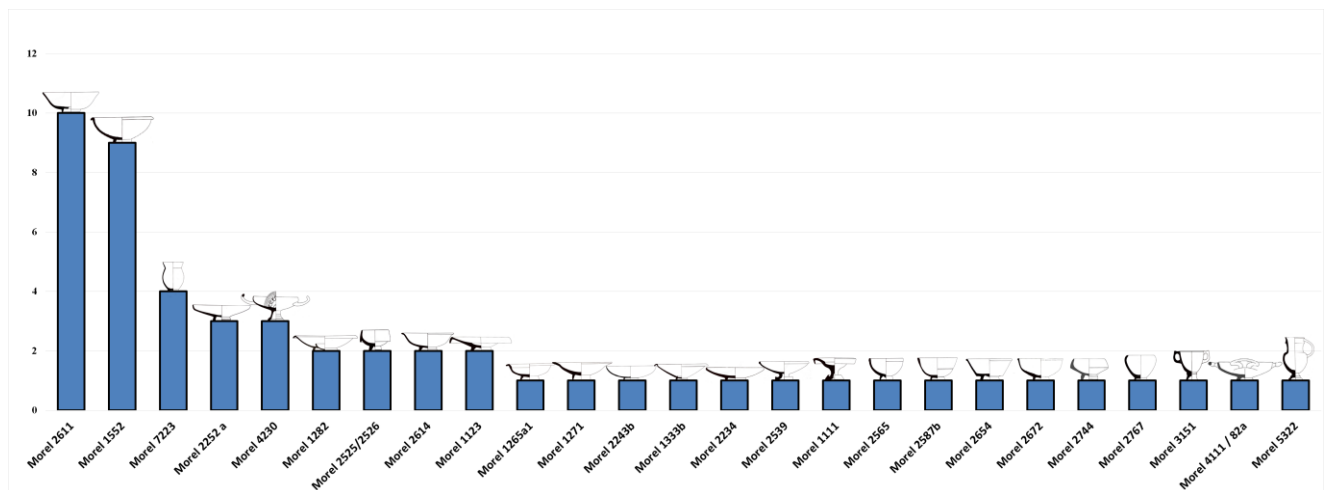


Fig. 20. EVE of Black Gloss Ware for Phases I, II and III.

<sup>25</sup> DYSON 1976: 25-26; OLCESE 2003: 79-80 with cited bibliography.

<sup>26</sup> DYSON 1976: 27.

<sup>27</sup> OLCESE 2003: 80-81 and quoted bibliography; BERTOLDI 2011: 95 and quoted bibliography (Bertoldi Type 5).

<sup>28</sup> DYSON 1976: 31; OLCESE 2003: 89-90 and quoted bibliography.

<sup>29</sup> DYSON 1976: 43.

<sup>30</sup> MONTAGNA PASQUINUCCI 1972: fig. 4, n. 262. At Cosa it is documented at least until the last 20 years of the century; see REYNOLDS SCOTT 2008: 128.

<sup>31</sup> Attested in Hellenistic levels (period VIb) at Piazza del Duomo at Pisa, recently published in TACCOLA 2019: 95 and related bibliography.

<sup>32</sup> APROSIO, PIZZO 2003: 111.



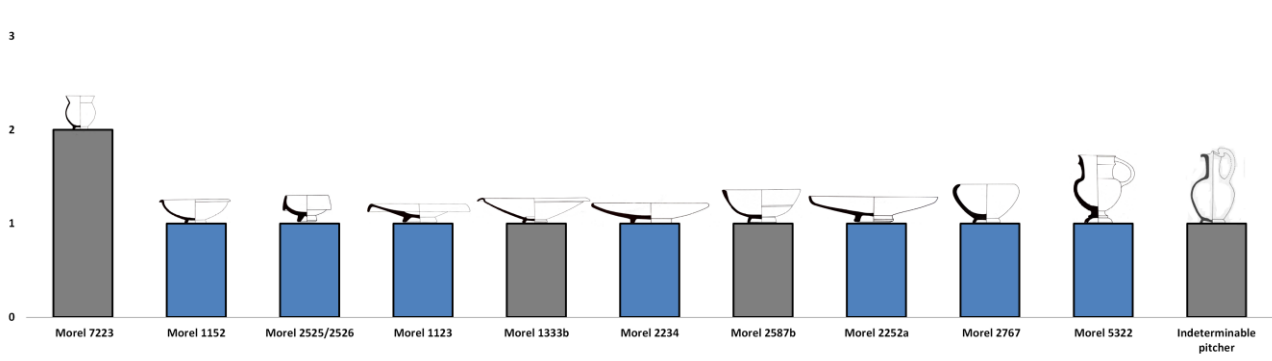


Fig. 21. EVE of Black Gloss Ware for Phase I.

be part of a typical series of eastern Sicilian productions. This is an interesting piece of information for the settlement at Podere Cannicci as, if the identification is correct, our fragment is a production waste. The Morel 2587 cup is likewise dated to the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, and the Morel 2767 bowl with incurved rim is a product of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. The assemblage is completed by two closed shapes, the only ones attested here: a rim/neck of a 3<sup>rd</sup>-century BC Morel 5322 pitcher and a contemporary spout of an unidentifiable closed shape, once again represented by a production waste. Finally, it is worth noting the presence of a foot/base of an open shape, highly deformed and, for this reason, not typologized.

#### Other Classes

Other pottery classes are randomly attested. *Dolia* are present with 4 fragments for 4 individuals; for the macroscopic characteristics of their fabrics, these are most likely ascribable to between the late Archaic period and the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Hellenistic Red Slip Ware is limited to 2 fragments for 2 individuals (1 rim/wall and 1 wall) belonging to closed shapes not otherwise identifiable. Finally, the Context also returned a fragment of a pyramidal loom weight.

#### Phase II. Room III – Context 40

Phase II, evidenced by Context 40 (physically below Context 35), contemporary with the yet unexcavated beaten-earth floor 38 in Room V<sup>33</sup>, returned 325 fragments, equal to 42 individuals (fig. 19).

#### Common Ware

Once again, the most attested class is common ware with 121 fragments, or 37% of the pottery evidence. This Context, however, has returned 92% of various, highly fragmented walls, while the rest of the percentage belongs to 3 individuals of stamnoid *ollas*, typical of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>34</sup>

#### Kitchen Ware

Kitchen ware has 74 fragments for 23% of the overall assemblage, which is equal to 6 individuals recognized from diagnostic pieces: these are three flat bases of *ollas*, the macroscopic characteristics of which delineate a chronological horizon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC. Two carinated pans and one large bowl do not have precise parallels yet.

<sup>33</sup> SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2019: 6-7.

<sup>34</sup> See, for example, CHERUBINI 2004 with relative bibliography.

## Amphorae

Amphorae correspond to little less than 16% of the retrieved material with 51 fragments and only 2 individuals. Even in this case, 90% of the assemblage is constituted by highly fragmented pieces of walls. Of the recognized rims, one belongs to the Vandermersch MGS VI/RMR VI.

## Black Gloss Ware

Black gloss ware is documented with a percentage that is less than 17% with 54 fragments and 18 recognized individuals; nonetheless, its contribution is essential in order to retrieve a chronology for the phase as well as to characterize it (fig. 22).

The identified chronological fork spans between the first 20 years of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and the first half of the following century. With 3 individuals, the most attested shape is the Morel 4230 kylix, produced in Volterra and dated between 280 and 260 BC; it is followed by 2 individuals belonging to the Morell 1282 dish type of the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. All the other vessels are represented by one individual each: the Morel 2565 cup is dated within the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC; the Morel 1552c cup dates to the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC; the Morel 1265a cup, well attested in the Arretine and Volterra areas, ends its chronology in the middle of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC; the Morel 1123 plate with everted rim is widely attested in northern Etruria between the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC; the Morel 1271 *patera* is a product of the first quarter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC; the Morel 2672 bowl is generally dated to during the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC but was still in use during Period 3 at the Villa dell'Auditorium in Rome, which ends with the last quarter of the century<sup>35</sup>; the Morel 3151 double-handled cup with high foot is a typical product of Volterra workshops<sup>36</sup>, dated between the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> century and the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC; the Morel 2539 cup with stem, most likely another Volterra product, is dated to during the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC<sup>37</sup>, while the first half of the same century claims the Morel 2744 bowl with incurved rim.

It is worth noting that some of these vessels (Morel 1282, 1123, 2672 and 2744, fig. 22 in gray) are represented by badly cooked fragments, obvious indicators of local productions, anticipating the same phenomenon in the underlying Context 41, Phase I.

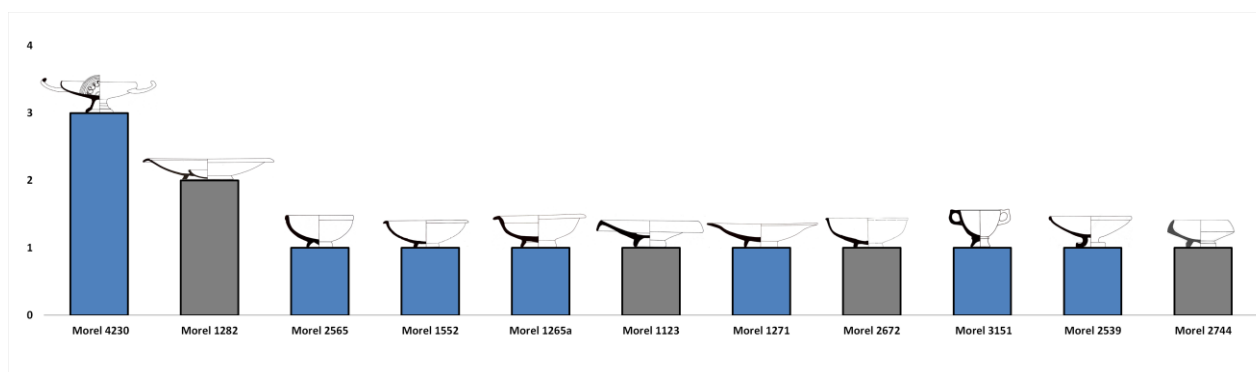


Fig. 22. EVE of Black Gloss Ware for Phase II.

## Hellenistic Red Slip Ware (*Presigillata*)

From this Context, 15 fragments, equal to 5 individuals, belong to the Hellenistic Red Slip Ware or *Presigillata* production. These represent 5% of the overall material from Context 40. Three of the five individuals are recognized as Cristofani 1-6 plate with furrowed rim, while out of the remaining two individuals, one is a bowl and the other an open shape, for which no parallels were found.

<sup>35</sup> "Villa dell'Acheloo," DI GIUSEPPE 2006: 385.

<sup>36</sup> MONTAGNA PASQUINUCCI 1972: fig. 4, n. 43-44.

<sup>37</sup> DI GIUSEPPE 2005: 66.

### Other classes (Pompeian Red Ware, Loom Weights)

To conclude the pottery assemblage from this Context, some fragments of Pompeian Red Ware (3 fragments for 3 individuals) were recognized together with 6 fragments for 4 individuals of pyramidal loom weights, one of which is almost whole<sup>38</sup>.

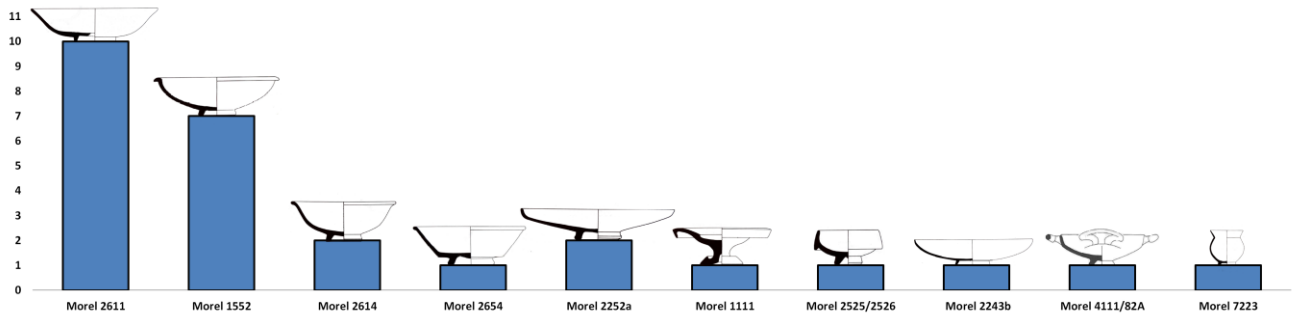


Fig. 23. EVE of Black Gloss Ware for Phase III.

### Phase III. Room III and IV – Contexts 35 and 36

Phase III is represented by two abandonment levels (35 and 36) similar for the physical features, yellowish clay with numerous carbonized elements. The first Context it's located in Room III above Context 40, and returned the most significant number of fragments of the Phase III (1,899) or 105 individuals. Context 36 instead is the first certain abandonment level of Room IV, located just above the earth-beaten floor 38<sup>39</sup>. For this Context, 611 fragments were retrieved for a total of 110 individuals. Therefore, as a whole, Phase III returned 2,520 fragments equal to 215 individuals (fig. 19).

#### Common Ware

About 60% of the overall pottery from Phase III (1, 442 fragments) belongs to common ware, very highly fragmented as 95% of the assemblage is made up of fragments of walls from different individuals. Only 35 bases represent the diagnostic elements and correspond to 17 individuals of closed shapes dated between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC. It was impossible to trace a precise parallel for a fragment of a rim and for a handle of stamnid *olla*.

#### Kitchen Ware

Kitchen ware covers more than 23% of the overall assemblage with 590 fragments. The large majority of these (537) is represented by walls of different shapes.

Among the 25 identified individuals the vessels that better define the most recent chronological limits are the Dyson PD 45-49/Olcese Type 3b<sup>40</sup> *olla* with concave rim that spans between the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and the 40's–30's of the same century and the contemporary Dyson PD 112<sup>41</sup>; it is worth pointing out the Dyson CF 24/Olcese Type 2 *ollas* (saucepans)<sup>42</sup> and 7 with an almond-shaped rim, Dyson CF 32/Olcese Type 3a,<sup>43</sup> both attested at Cosa between 275-150 BC and at Rome and Latium mainly between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC and the first Augustan period. The Dyson V-D 87<sup>44</sup> *olla* is present with just one individual, dated be-

<sup>38</sup> As anticipated in SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2019: 6, in particular note 16.

<sup>39</sup> SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2019: 5-6.

<sup>40</sup> DYSON 1976: 94; OLCESE 2003: 81 with quoted bibliography.

<sup>41</sup> DYSON 1976: 103.

<sup>42</sup> DYSON 1976: 25-32; OLCESE 2003: 79-80 and bibliography here cited.

<sup>43</sup> OLCESE 2003: 80-82 and bibliography here cited.

<sup>44</sup> DYSON 1976: 94.



tween the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the first 30 years of the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC. The two Dyson CF 35 *ollas*<sup>45</sup> and the Dyson CF 11<sup>46</sup> *olla* are the oldest evidence for this Context, being dated between 275 and 150 BC. Quite interesting is the legged skillet, Dyson CF 14<sup>47</sup>, that at Cosa is recorded in Contexts of the full mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC (Dyson 16, IV, 18)<sup>48</sup>.

### *Amphorae*

Particularly poor is the panorama of amphorae: of 331 fragments, corresponding to little more than 13% of the attested classes, the large majority (220 sherds) belongs to walls, while among the 18 identified individuals, only 6 can be attributed with some certainty to a rim and a handle of a Greco-Italic amphora, Vanderersch MSG VI/RMR VI type<sup>49</sup>, which is a wine vessel with a problematic chronology lasting until the first decade of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>50</sup>.

### *Black Gloss Ware*

Phase III returned about 70% of the vessels recovered belonging to this class (194 fragments and 70 individuals) (fig. 23). With 10 individuals, the most attested shape is the Morel 2611 cup, its chronology in northern Etruria being around the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC; together with the contemporary Morel 2654 cup, they mark the most recent chronological limit for the closure of our Context<sup>51</sup>.

The Morel 2252a *patera* (2 individuals) belongs to a regional Volterra/northern Etruscan production of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC that lasts until the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century and beyond<sup>52</sup>. The remaining evidence includes vessels that are dated within the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, such as the Morel 2614 cup (2 individuals), the Morel 2525/2526 cup (1 individual) and the Morel 7223 beaker (1 individual). The distinctive Morel 4111/82a kylix with bent-back handles is attested with 1 individual characterized by a base with stamps and rouletting, typical of the Volterra production D at Malacena and dated between the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC<sup>53</sup>. Two vessels other have to be considered residual: the Morel 1552 cup (7 individuals) although it is the second type mainly documented, dated to the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, and the Morel 2243b *patera*, most likely a Volterra production (D production?) for the first time, dated between the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> and the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries BC<sup>54</sup>.

### *Hellenistic Red Slip Ware (Presigillata)*

From this Context, 16 fragments, equal to 7 individuals, of the distinctive Cristofani 1-6 plate with furrowed rim were found, produced in Hellenistic Red Slip Ware (or Presigillata); it is certainly a Volterra production dated from the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup>/first 20 years of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century to the full 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC<sup>55</sup>. The other 9 fragments belong to open shapes, for which a straight parallel was not found.

### *Opus Doliare*

15 fragments of medium-to-small-sized *dolia*, belonging to 4 individuals, come from this Phase. Although the research on this class still has to be further explored, the morphology of the diagnostic fragments, together with the kind of clay fabrics, highlights productions that span between the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC.

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<sup>45</sup> DYSON 1976: 22.

<sup>46</sup> DYSON 1976: 27.

<sup>47</sup> DYSON 1976: 23.

<sup>48</sup> DYSON 1976: 54.

<sup>49</sup> VANDERMERSCH 1994; VANDERMERSCH 2001.

<sup>50</sup> CIBECCHINI 2007; CIBECCHINI, CAPELLI 2013.

<sup>51</sup> For Volterra D and F productions, see DI GIUSEPPE 2005 and the bibliography here cited.

<sup>52</sup> MONTAGNA PASQUINUCCI 1972, fig. 1, n. 265; REYNOLDS SCOTT 2008: 140.

<sup>53</sup> MONTAGNA PASQUINUCCI 1972: 362-364; REYNOLDS SCOTT 2008: 91-92 and previous references.

<sup>54</sup> This is a mutual production between Veii and its region and those from Volterra; see DI GIUSEPPE 2005: 44-45, 63, 71.

<sup>55</sup> CRISTOFANI, CRISTOFANI MARTELLI 1972; for the term Presigillata, see LIPPOLIS 1984; PALERMO 1990; WELLS 2002; APROSIO 2003 and previous references.

### *Other Classes (lamps, Pompeian Red Ware and production Waste)*

Other ceramic classes are attested sporadically with only 13 fragments. As it is one of the few examples of this class in the entire excavation, it is worth noting a fragment of the tank of a black gloss biconical oil lamp dated between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC. Only one fragment of a Pompeian Red Ware pan comes from this phase belonging to the Goudineau 30 type<sup>56</sup>, dated to the first 30 years of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. Just as interesting is the evidence for local pottery production: two joining fragments of an overcooked and warped *olla* was retrieved here.

### *Discussion*

Without prejudice to the uncertainty in the preliminary analysis of just four sample Contexts from the site, the data shown here may be an occasion for some initial ideas to be developed as the research continues at Podere Cannicci.

First of all, these assemblages inform the chronology of the settlement. The material indicates the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC as a *terminus post quem* for the abandonment of the rooms (**Phase III**)<sup>57</sup> and highlights its first twenty years for the closure of the Contexts in relation to the events of the Social Wars of those years<sup>58</sup>.

The occupation of the rooms and the complex as a whole, however, seems to have developed between the second half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC. The vessels in black gloss ware, the indirect production indicators of which have been found concentrated in a secondary position in Contexts **41** and **40** (Phase I-II), reveal a chronology corresponding to the maximum development of the production of these ceramics in relation to sanctuaries, as highlighted by Helga Di Giuseppe<sup>59</sup>: this allows us to complete the overall picture of the relationship between the main residential/productive settlement and the nearby sacred area<sup>60</sup>.

More generally, the material culture of this part of the middle Ombrone valley seems to be marked by a different facies from the one that characterizes the Tyrrhenian coastal area, with an apparent predominance of Volterra influences (and with the absence of Roman-Latian production); for example, comparing the attestations of black gloss ware from this site with the contemporary Contexts of Piazza del Duomo in Pisa, we note that the only form in common is an individual of the Morel 2252a *patera*<sup>61</sup>.

Amphorae are very poorly attested (less than 8% of the total fragments) and are exclusively of the Vanderersch MGS VI/RMR VI type, the provenance of which still has to be established; it is inevitable to think, therefore, about the consumption of wine mainly on a local and regional scale, in containers other than amphorae, and distributed mainly via land and/or river transport.

Lamps are almost absent, and here, too, it is necessary to think of alternative lighting systems<sup>62</sup>.

M.B.

### *Understanding the settlement at Podere Cannicci*

The 2019 excavation season at Podere Cannicci allowed us to better comprehend the function and the extent of the late Etruscan and Republican rural settlement in the middle valley of the Ombrone river. The continuation of the research demonstrated the existence of at least one new building, the discovery of which was largely due to the geophysics carried out in 2018.

<sup>56</sup> GOUDINEAU 1970: 166.

<sup>57</sup> The absolute lack of fragments of the oldest productions of *terra sigillata* and other contemporary classes allows the second half of the century to be safely excluded.

<sup>58</sup> SEBASTIANI, HOBART 2019: 19 and bibliography here cited; SEBASTIANI et al. 2018 and bibliography cited.

<sup>59</sup> DI GIUSEPPE 2012; DI GIUSEPPE 2016; DI GIUSEPPE 2019.

<sup>60</sup> This connection is also underlined by the recovery of a quite substantial number of votive offerings and loom weights; see SEBASTIANI, HOBART 2019: 28; SEBASTIANI et al. 2018: 7-9. For general considerations, see also DI GIUSEPPE 2017.

<sup>61</sup> TACCOLA 2019: 96, Period VIb (100-50 BC).

<sup>62</sup> An exception that confirms the rule is the singular lamp, found during the 2019 campaign in Area 1000, associated with the Morel 1410 high-footed plate, probably of Volterra production and dated between the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> centuries BC and beyond. The lamp, almost intact and being studied together with its context of discovery, seems to belong to an experimental phase of molded productions, perhaps an imitation of metal prototypes, datable to during the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. I thank Donato Labate for the constructive comparison and the valuable advice during the preliminary evaluation of this unpublished finding.

The opening of Area 1000, in fact, shows that a large complex was constructed sometime in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC and continued its life and functions until the first decades of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC. At that time, a wide fire destroyed this new complex as well as the one already discovered by the Soprintendenza in 1989-1990 and then further exposed during the 2017-2019 excavation seasons of the IMPERO Project.

Although the results of the last fieldwork season informed our knowledge of the site, some other issues remain quite unclear. To start with, the new dataset acquired in 2019 indicates, now without a doubt, that the area of Podere Cannicci was much more populated and densely built than previously thought. This hypothesis is not new, as it was expressed already after the results of the geophysical campaign<sup>63</sup>; nonetheless, it is now much clearer that many of the anomalies recorded in 2018 can be attributed to nuclei of buildings gravitating around the gentle slopes of the hills at Podere Cannicci. The rich, fertile soils and the abundance of water must be recognized as some of the main reasons for the establishment of a nucleated settlement; however, it is our opinion that the element that boosted the final decision was the location of a nearby sacred area, witnessed by the presence of votive offerings recovered during the 1980's<sup>64</sup>. These latter, in fact, provide the earliest evidence of human presence in this area, with a chronology dating back to, at least, the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century BC<sup>65</sup>. The final location of the sanctuary remains unknown, as well as whether this should be considered to be just an open air shrine/votive area or a much more articulated and architecturally structured building. Nonetheless, the sacred area attracted some sort of occupation as early as the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, which, at the moment, is the earliest trace within residual materials coming from both of the complexes at Podere Cannicci (see Brando *supra*); archaeology was not able to reach any level belonging to that phase, but the continuation of the research will address this issue soon. The construction of the archaeologically explored buildings can now be set quite surely at least in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC, most likely soon after the Roman conquest of the *ager Rusellanus* and the subsequent reorganization of the territory<sup>66</sup>. The pottery assemblage is quite certain on this, as well as the C<sup>14</sup> analysis carried out on the beams of the second building discovered at Podere Cannicci (fig. 24)<sup>67</sup>. This has returned a date between the mid-3<sup>rd</sup> and the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC for the wood used in the ceilings in Room I, the carbonized table in Area 1000, and the wooden architrave also in Area 1000; by matching this evidence with the pottery record, the first half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC sounds reasonable as a possible foundation date of the settlement.

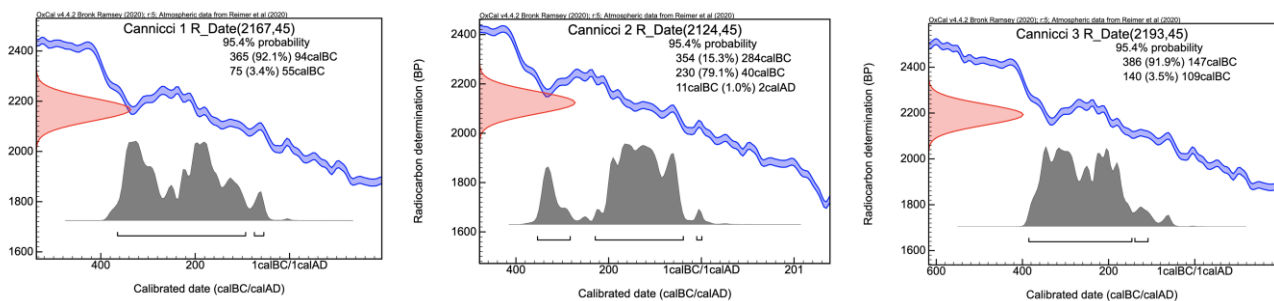


Fig. 24. Calibrated chronologies of the three C14 samples from Room I and Area 1000 at Podere Cannicci.

The sanctuary/sacred area survived into the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, as well as the surrounding buildings. It was a community of farmers, as the presence of numerous *dolia* in both the buildings suggests, but artisans were also working here. Pottery was produced, as the production wasters of black gloss ware and kitchen ware witness, yet blacksmiths were also operating, surely producing agricultural tools and, possibly, some met-

<sup>63</sup> SEBASTIANI, HOBART 2019: 27-28; SEBASTIANI et al. 2019: 12.

<sup>64</sup> FABBRI 2006; FABBRI 2019: 96-100.

<sup>65</sup> The earliest evidence of the mid-5<sup>th</sup> century BC is given by a terracotta statuette, most likely depicting Minerva, found at Podere Cannicci during the rescue excavations in 1989. The statuette is now displayed at the Archaeological Museum in Grosseto, FABBRI 2019: 92. In addition, some of the votive *uteri* retrieved during these investigations are dated to the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> and the very early 4<sup>th</sup> centuries BC, providing even stronger evidence of some sort of organization of the landscape in the Etruscan period (FABBRI 2019: 97).

<sup>66</sup> CHIRICO et al. 2015: 345-347.

<sup>67</sup> C<sup>14</sup> analyses were carried out at the Laboratory of the University of Salento.



al votive offerings<sup>68</sup>. The settlement was a thriving community, with a series of buildings gravitating around a sacred area and in economic symbiosis with it. Agriculture, religion and craftsmanship all blended together until a large fire, the traces of which are omnipresent at Podere Cannicci, destroyed everything.

All the collapse and abandonment levels at both the buildings speak to high temperatures, melting the *pisé* walls and mud bricks that formed the original structures. Their roofs were carbonized, and their furniture was frozen in time. The carbonized table of Area 1000 seems to mirror the carbonized container of the silver *denarii* retrieved under a *dolium* in 1989-1990<sup>69</sup>. These Contexts are now well dated to the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, when the Social Wars raged the countryside of Etruria; the local community of farmers and artisans at Podere Cannicci suffered the sword and torches of Sulla, whose troops destroyed the buildings and canceled the possibility that the settlement could thrive again. Yet, the material culture gives us a glimpse of the hurry that the local people had when they left, just before the fire: the iron anvil, a precious object weighing more than 5 kilos, repeatedly hammered for weeks (if not months!) to gain the final shape and consumed so much by the diligent work of a local blacksmith, was left behind; no one came back to collect it, like the hoard of silver *denarii*, abandoned underneath one of the *dolia*.

It is no coincidence, then, that no later occupations were discovered in this part of the village. Most likely, people left the village and died before returning. A few Imperial coins and scattered fragments of *terra sigillata* that were found randomly on the topsoil should be linked to a later phase and buildings that came into being much to the west of the original settlement, on a flat hilltop overlooking the main terrestrial networks<sup>70</sup>.

### Conclusions

Much more work is needed at Podere Cannicci. The 2017-2019 archaeological seasons have just started to scratch the surface of a Republican *vicus* of the *ager Rusellanus*, and while they answered some of the initial research questions, they also ignite some new directions.

The upcoming season will test the extent of the second building discovered in Area 1000 while continuing to expose some of the rooms in the original complex, the excavation of which started under the Soprintendenza back in the late 1980's.

The final location of the sacred area is one of the issues that future research needs to address in order to fully understand the topography and the organization of the *vicus* as well as its intricate connections with religion and economy. The pottery kilns that produced black gloss ware vessels, most certainly for the sanctuary and the local market, have to be identified and fully excavated. Their archaeological sequence will shed fundamental light on the volume of trade, the demand and supply of the local economy and the sophisticated relationship with Volterra.

The shift of the settlement during the Imperial period should also be investigated in order to determine its functions, phases and full extent. In the near future, trial trenches will be opened on the western hill at Podere Cannicci while we will continue to use remote sensing on the fields around, as they present scatters of archaeological materials, most likely hiding other fundamental structures.

A.S.

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<sup>68</sup> This idea is suggested by the evidence of bronze casting activities undertaken at the site (Pino Pulitani, personal communication) and the presence of, at least, one bronze votive offering retrieved during the excavations in 1989 (FABRI 2006).

<sup>69</sup> ADEMBRI 2001: 203; BARBIERI 2005: 128.

<sup>70</sup> SEBASTIANI *et al.* 2019: 13.

<sup>71</sup> A digital version of the exhibit "Archeologia a Monteverdi. La media valle dell'Ombrone dal periodo etrusco a quello medievale" can be seen here: <https://imperoproject.com/archeologia-a-monteverdi/>.

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