



STRATEGY AND STRUCTURES ALONG THE ROMAN FRONTIER

HARRY **VAN ENCKEVORT**, MARK **DRIESSEN**, ERIK **GRAAFSTAL**,
TOM **HAZENBERG**, TATIANA **IVLEVA** AND CAROL **VAN DRIEL-MURRAY** (EDS)

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Preface

The 25th Limes Congress was held in the Lindenberg Cultuurhuis in Nijmegen from 21 to 27 August 2022. Two days were used for excursions to important sites along the Lower German Limes (see volume 1). During the remaining five days 37 sessions took place with 246 papers presented on a wide range of topics related to the frontiers of the Roman Empire. In addition, 27 posters, in which limes scholars presented their research, were displayed for the participants to view.

We are publishing 184 articles based on the papers and posters presented at the Congress in four separate, themed volumes. The papers in this volume are divided into five themes. The first theme explores Roman imperial imperialism, the early frontier formation and the creation and reshuffling of tribal (id)entities. The second theme focuses on Roman military activities during the Republic. Fortresses and other installations of the Roman legions are the subject of

PART 1

**ROMAN IMPERIALISM
AND EARLY FRONTIER
FORMATION**

THE CREATION AND
RESHUFFLING
OF TRIBAL (ID)ENTITIES

The siege of Cerro Castarreño

Assessing the impact of Rome on the transformation of an archaeological landscape between the river Duero valley and the Cantabrian Mountains (Spain)

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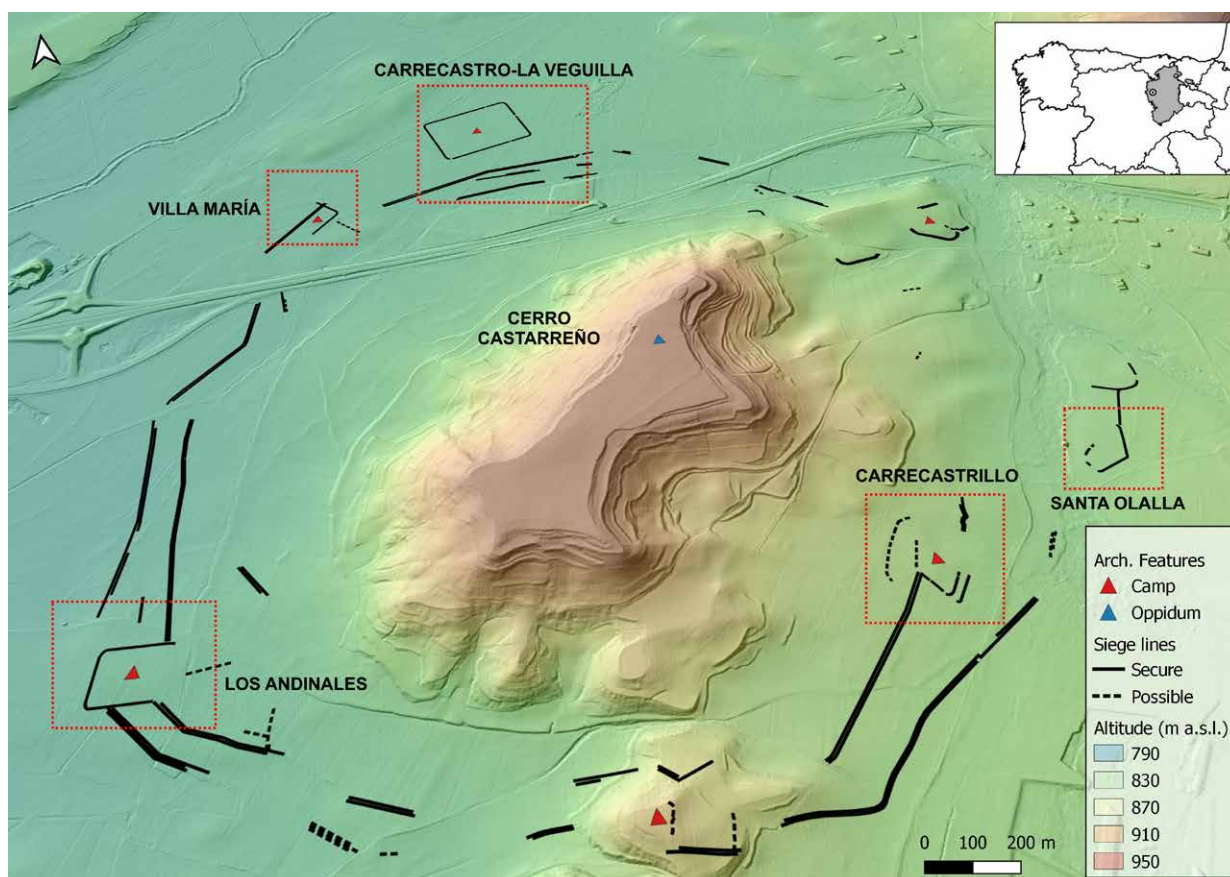
in a position to offer new archaeological data that might challenge traditional narratives.

Materials and methods

Since it emerged as an informal research collective, the Romanarmy.eu initiative has been at the forefront in adopting new digital tools and geospatial datasets to develop innovative approaches to studying the Roman expansion in *Iberia* (Menéndez Blanco *et al.* 2013; Costa-García & Fonte 2017; González-Álvarez *et al.* 2019). One of the main contributions of our collective has been the development of a modular methodology for detecting ephemeral Roman military sites in northern *Iberia</*

Archaeology has identified a massive accumulation of military sites in the Cantabrian Mountains related to the Augustan campaigns against the northerners since the late 20th century (Peralta Labrador *et al.* 2019). Several scenarios of fossilised violence add now to the crudeness transmitted by the ancient written sources depicting the conflict. Unfortunately, the theoretical rearguards of that campaign in the northern Spanish Plateau did not receive similar attention until recently (Martín Hernández *et al.* 2020; Menéndez Blanco *et al.* 2020), delaying the formulation of innovative interpretations of their role in the conflict.

The Turmogian area became fully integrated into the Empire after 19 BC, and a city was founded where modern-day Sasamón lies. The scarce archaeological data



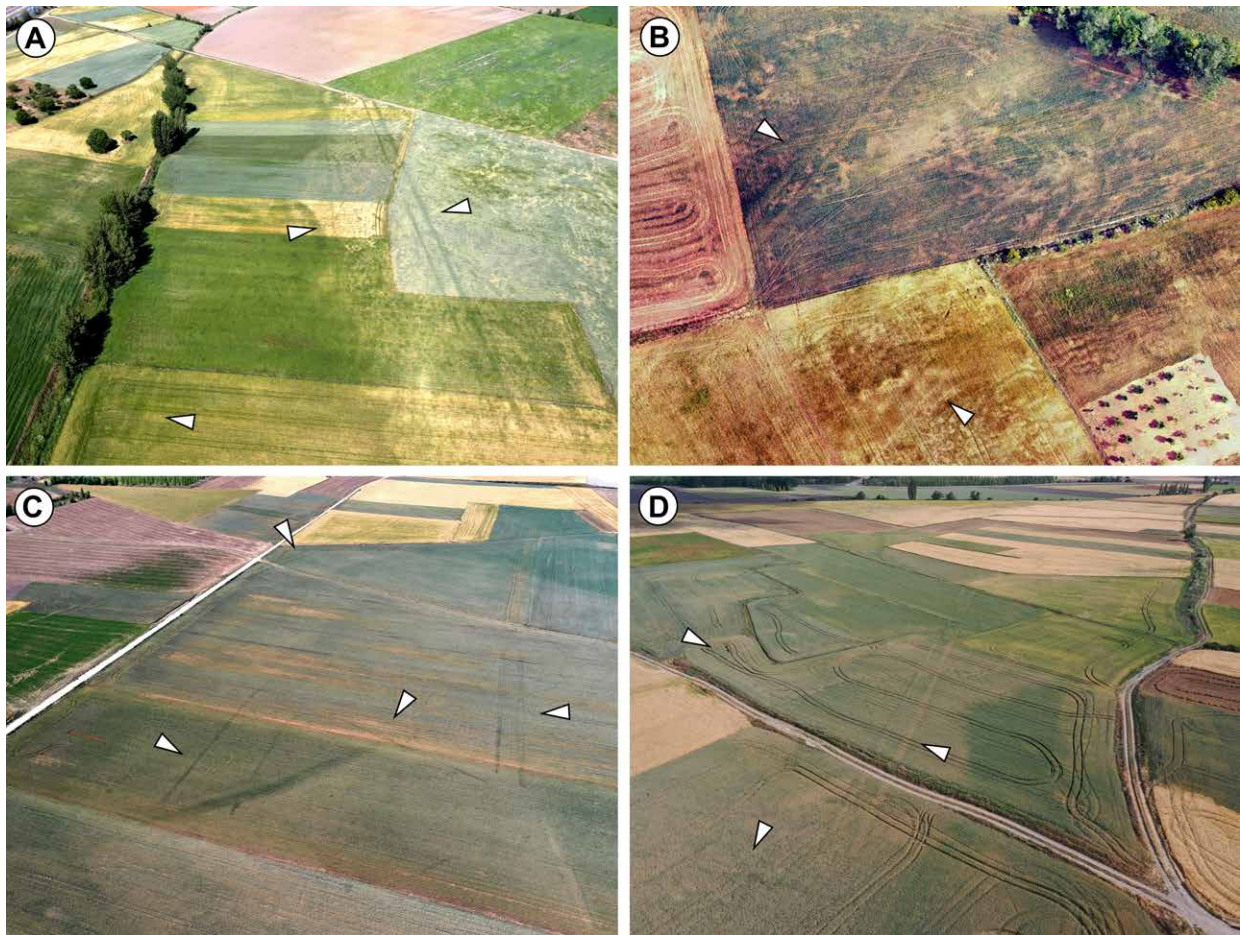


Figure 2. Archaeological traces documented in La Veguilla (A), Villa María (B), Carrecastrillo (C) and Los Andinales (D).

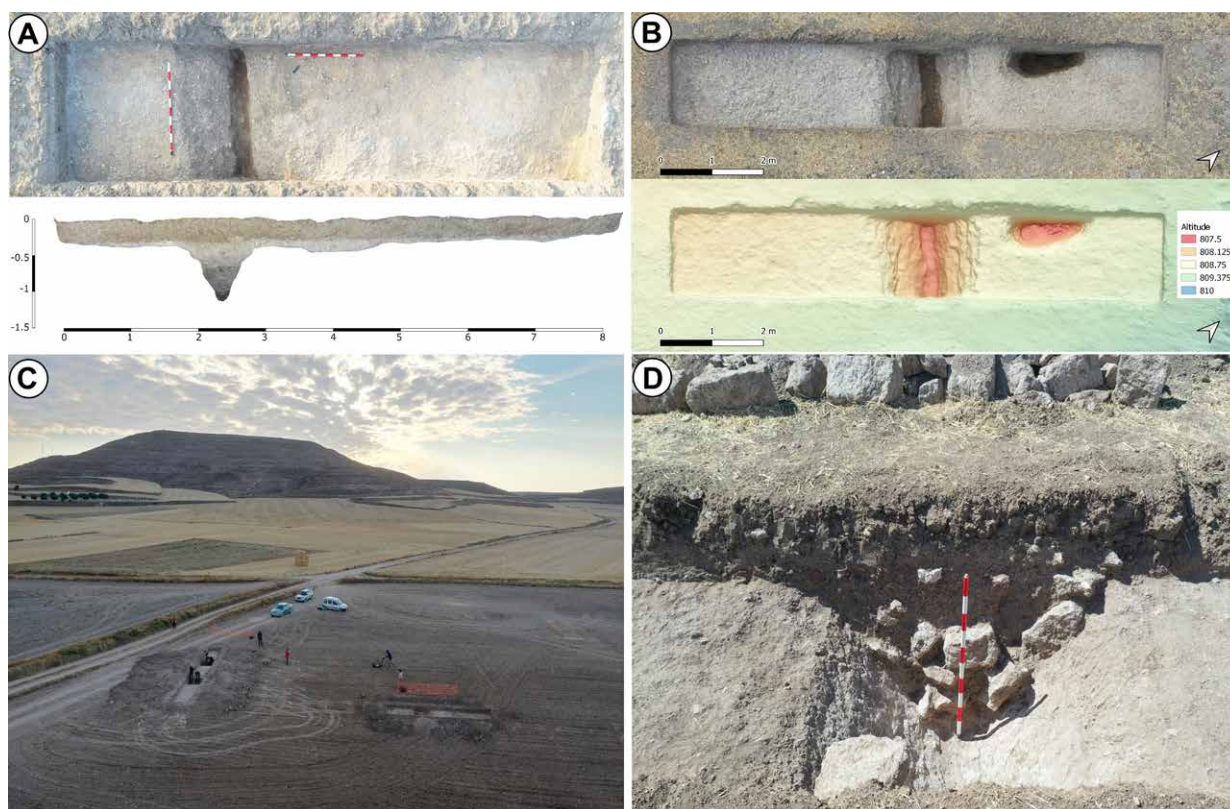
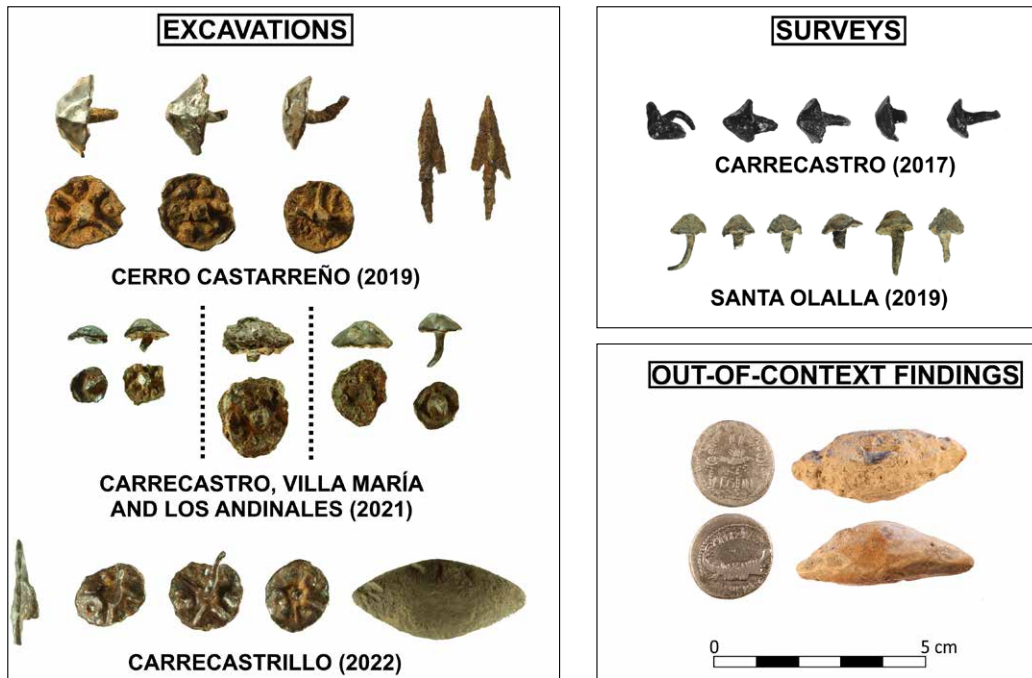


Figure 3. The defences of the Carreastro (A) and Villa María camps (B). Los Andinales sector (C). The *circumvallatio* inner ditch in Carrecastrillo (D).

Dating of the siege scenario



indicates that the events probably occurred in the 1st century BC, a period of intense military activity in *Iberia*. Without ruling out other previous conflicts, the chronological proximity of the campaigns of Statilius Taurus against the *Vaccae* (29 BC) leads us to think that this event could be one of the obscure actions leading to the *ex Hispania* victories mentioned by the *Fasti Triumphales* in the 30's and 20's of the 1st century BC (Amela Valverde 2006).

No similar violent episode has been documented yet in the area, so one might wonder if the Turmogian reaction to the Roman expansion was unitarian and whether the foundation of *Segisamo* was a

- García Sánchez, J. & J.M. Costa-García, 2020: Del oppidum indígena a la ciudad romana. Evolución del paisaje de Segisamo (Sasamón, Burgos, España) a través de la fotografía aérea. Datos de la prospección aérea de 2019, *Lucentum* 39, 131-148.
- García Sánchez, J., J.M. Costa-García, J. Fonte & D. González-Álvarez, 2022: Exploring ephemeral features with ground-penetrating radar. An approach to Roman military camps, *Remote Sensing* 14/19, 4884.
- García Sánchez, J., 2022: The last frontier. Late Iron Age society, Roman conquest and the Romanization of the territory north of the river Duero, in: T.D. Stek

STRATEGY AND STRUCTURES ALONG THE ROMAN FRONTIER

This publication – Strategy and Structures along the Roman Frontiers – is the second volume of the LIMES XXV's congress proceedings and deals with the following themes: Roman military activities during the Republic; the early frontier formation processes and tribal reshuffling; new insights in the installations of the Roman armies; an odyssey along different Limes regions; the collapse of Roman frontiers; the afterlife of frontier fortifications. The proceedings are all arranged around the original sessions, creating coherent thematical collections that make the vast output more accessible to generalists and specialists alike.

Frontiers are zones, or lines, of contact and coercion, of exchange and exclusion. As such they often express some of the most typical elements of the socio-political spaces that are defined by them