

MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL EVIDENCE OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES FROM ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN NW-ITALY

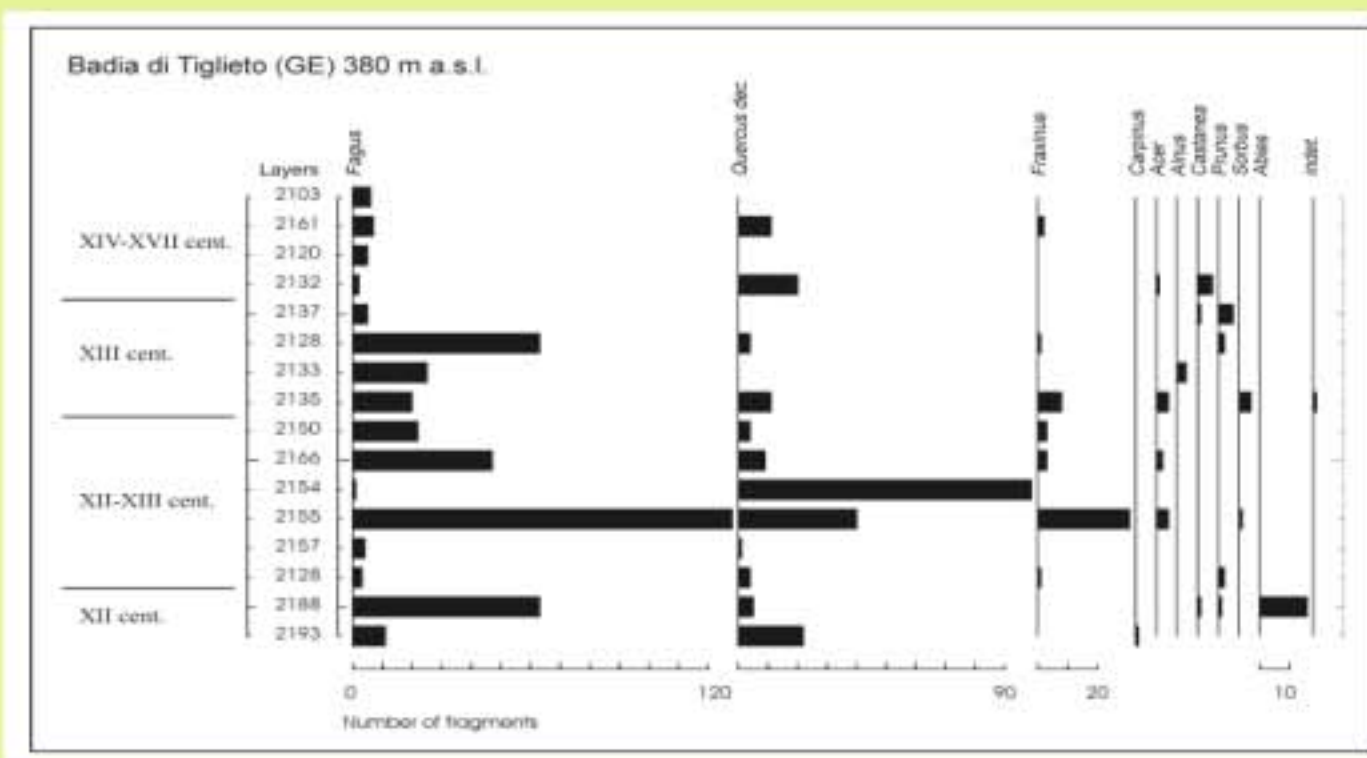
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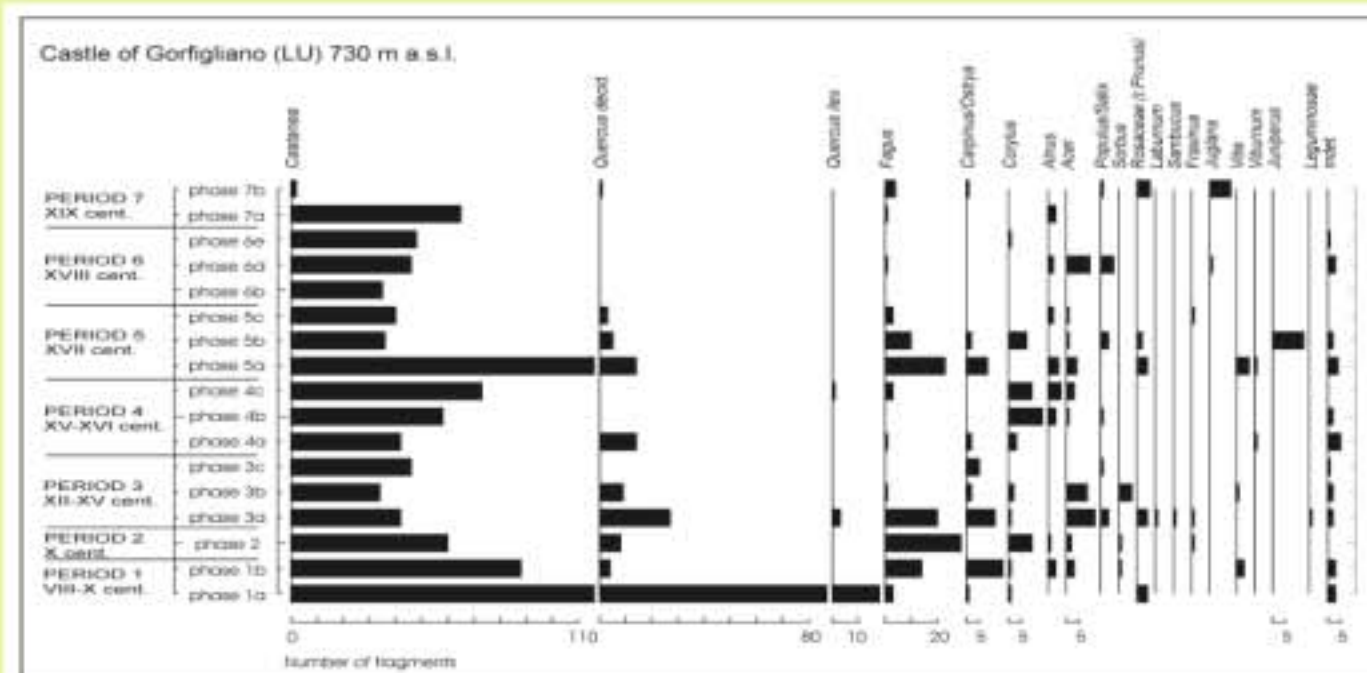


On the basis of recent and previous archaeological research carried out in NW-Italy, a reflection is attempted to highlight main features and peculiarities of conventional and environmental archaeology, particularly regarding their contribution to the reconstruction of past cultural landscapes

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES FROM CONVENTIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY

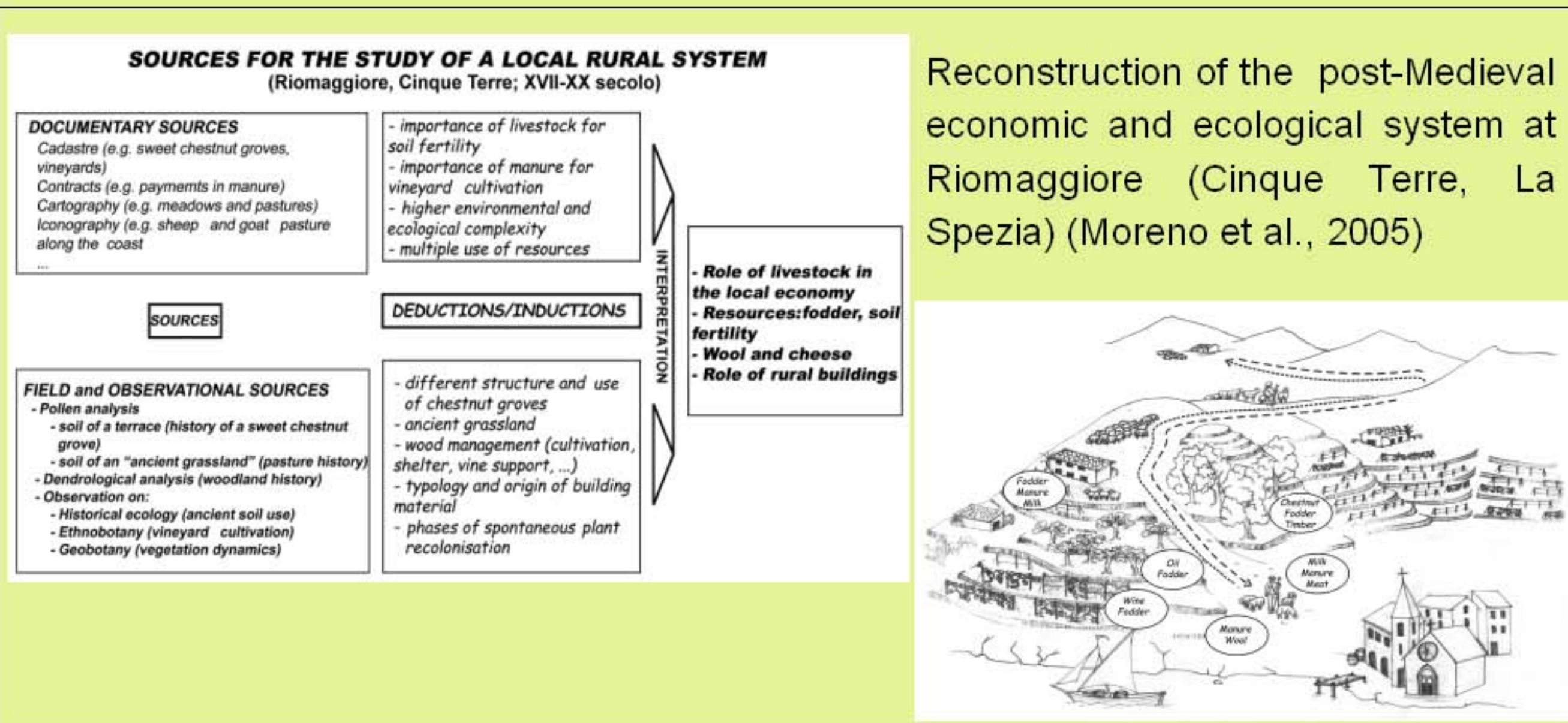
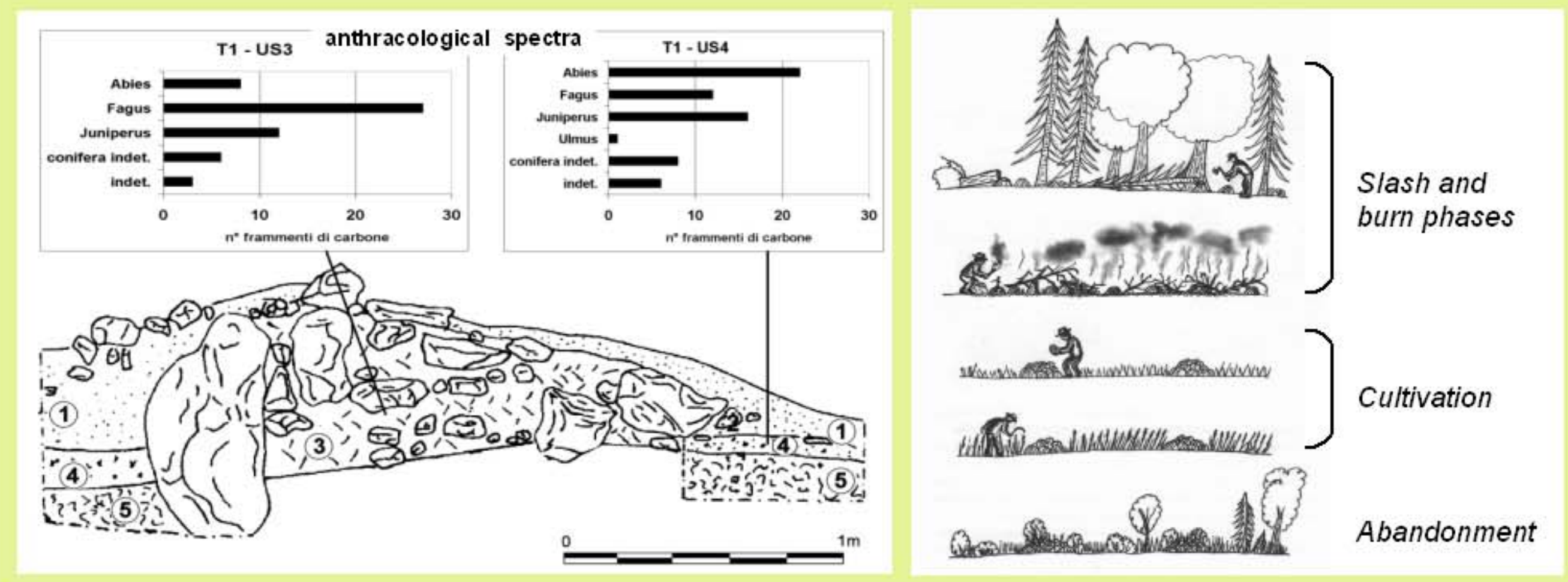


Anthracological spectra showing charred wood remains in two archaeological sites of NW-Italy; general technological, ecological and environmental considerations can be made, according to relevant archaeological chronology (Ferrari et al., 2006; Montanari and Scipioni, 2004)



HIDDEN DIMENSION OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES SHOWN BY ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Evidence of Medieval (VII-VIII cent) temporary agriculture at Casanova di Rovegno (1240 m, Ligurian Apennine) from the excavation of clearance cairns (Guido et al., 2003)



PATHWAYS AND CRITICAL POINTS IN NW-ITALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH

| IN SITE | | CONVENTIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE | | 1 - site selection | | 2 - approaches | | 3 - sampling context | | 4 - bioarchaeological remains | | 5 - interpretation | | common goals | CULTURAL LANDSCAPE |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| geoarchaeology | artifacts | bioarchaeology | organic artifacts bones, invertebrates pollen, phytoliths | stratigraphic excavation | sediments | seeds-fruits | modern analogues (ethnoarchaeology) | use of environmental resources | soils | charcoal | wood | modern site ecology | site history | | |
| stratigraphic excavation | soils | stratigraphic excavation | charcoal | bioarchaeology | sediments | seeds-fruits | use of environmental resources | historical ecology | modern site ecology | wood | charcoal | rural technology | site history | technology | site history |
| stratigraphic excavation | soils | bioarchaeology | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | historical ecology | modern site ecology | bones, invertebrates | site economy | modern site ecology | modern site ecology | seeds-fruits | use and activation of environmental resources | site history | environmental processes | theoretical landscape shaping | site history |
| stratigraphic excavation | soils | geoarchaeology | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | geoarchaeology | historical archives | bones, invertebrates | site economy | modern site ecology | modern site ecology | wood | charcoal | site history | environmental processes | technology | site history |
| stratigraphic excavation | soils | geobotany | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | geobotany | biostratigraphical archives | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | site economy | modern site ecology | modern site ecology | wood | charcoal | site history | environmental processes | site economy | site history |
| stratigraphic excavation | soils | applied geology | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | applied geology | biostratigraphical archives | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | site economy | modern site ecology | modern site ecology | wood | charcoal | site history | environmental processes | site economy | site history |
| stratigraphic excavation | soils | geography | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | geography | biostratigraphical archives | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | site economy | modern site ecology | modern site ecology | wood | charcoal | site history | environmental processes | site economy | site history |
| stratigraphic excavation | soils | local history | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | local history | biostratigraphical archives | pollen, NPP, microcharcoal, phytoliths | site economy | modern site ecology | modern site ecology | wood | charcoal | site history | environmental processes | site economy | site history |

The table represents a comparison between the main approaches of Medieval and post-Medieval archaeological research in NW-Italy and recent projects in environmental archaeology carried out by LASA. A more precise definition of *extra-site* is needed. We introduce the concept of *environmental archaeological (historical) site*. Conventional and environmental archaeology pathways meet at the cultural landscape scale, contributing differently to show its hidden dimension. Specific features and critical points seem to be at points 1, 3 and 5. Actually, while the conventional approach mostly provides indirect evidence of primary production sites, the environmental archaeology highlights the history of environmental resources at a topographic scale.

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PROJECTS
ZUM - Studio di fattibilità di un progetto per la conoscenza, conservazione e valorizzazione delle zone umide liguri. Sustained by MIBAC (Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali).
Il parco agricolo: un nuovo strumento di pianificazione territoriale degli spazi aperti. Funding by MIUR (Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca).
ECL - Our Common European Cultural Landscape Heritage. Supported by the European Commission - Cultura 2000.

