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

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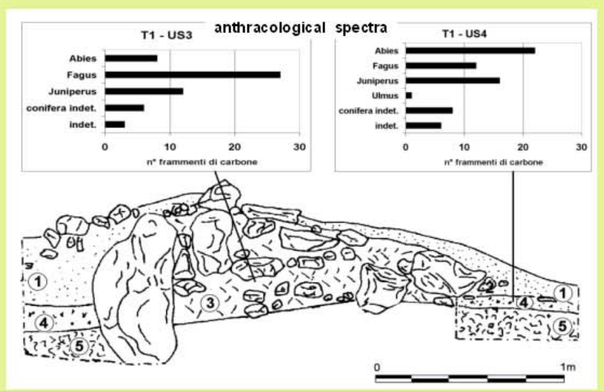
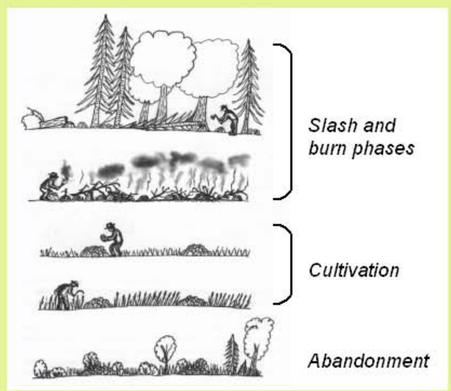
On the basis of recent and previous archaeological research carried out in NW-Italy, a reflection is attempted to highlight main features and peculiarities of conventional and environmental archaeology, particularly regarding their contribution to the reconstruction of past cultural landscapes

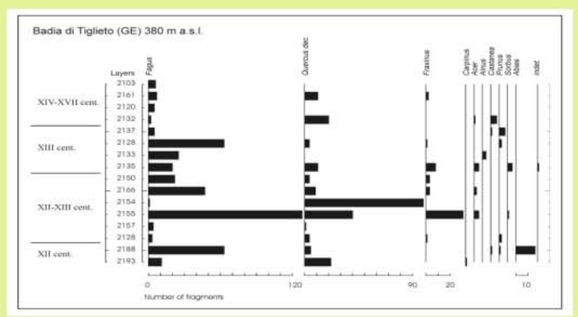
HIDDEN DIMENSION OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES SHOWN BY ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

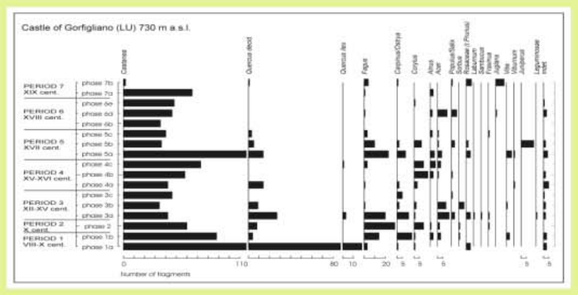
Evidence of Medieval (VII-VIII cent) temporary agriculture at Casanova di Rovegno (1240 m, Ligurian Apennine) from the excavation of clearance cairns (Guido et al., 2003)



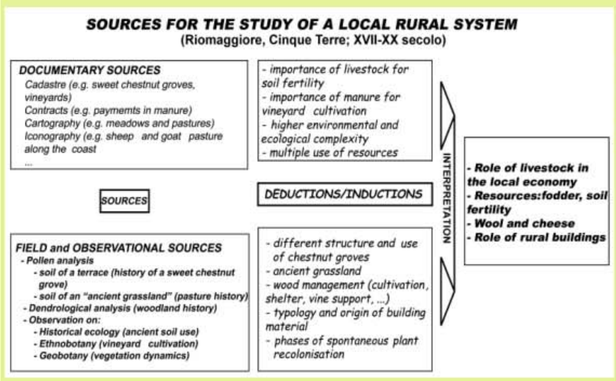


CULTURAL LANDSCAPES FROM CONVENTIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY

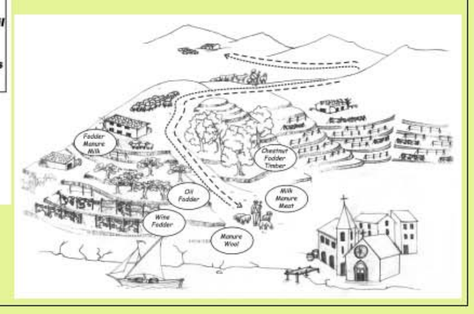




Anthracological spectra showing charred wood remains in two archaeological sites of NW-Italy; general technological, ecological and environmental considerations can be made, according to relevant archaeological chronology (Ferrari et al., 2006; Montanari and Scipioni, 2004)



Reconstruction of the post-Medieval economic and ecological system at Riomaggiore (Cinque Terre, La Spezia) (Moreno et al., 2005)



PATHWAYS AND CRITICAL POINTS IN NW-ITALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH

pathways — main issues

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

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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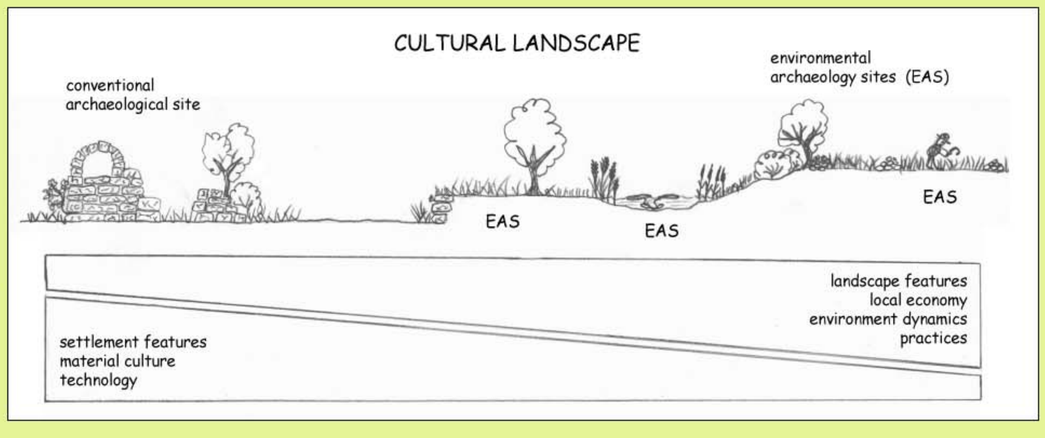
PROJECTS

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.



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