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# **Geomorphological and Palaeoenvironmental studies at Castelporziano**

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The aim of this investigation is to develop a better understanding of the geomorphology and environment of the coastal zone of Castelporziano before, during and after the period of Roman occupation of the site.

### **Objectives for April/May 2007**

- (1) To obtain samples from a selection of organic-rich deposits within interdune depressions within and inland from the coastline during the Roman period. These deposits provide potential archives of environmental change.
- (2) To develop a detailed picture of the contemporary vegetation in the coastal zone as an aid to the interpretation of plant macrofossil and pollen assemblages within the organic-rich sediments.



Fig. 1 Zone D6: Seasonally-wet swamp at the centre of a rectangular depression.

## Results of the sampling programme

A total of 13 cores were extracted from the following zones:

### Zone D6

Three sets of 2.0 m cores were recovered from the central part of this rectangular depression using a Russian peat corer. One other core was extracted from a more marginal, and drier, location using a percussion corer.



Fig. 2 Basal portion of D6 core showing sharp transition between organic-rich silts and coarse sand.

### Zone D5

A 1.7m core was extracted from the central part of this second rectangular depression using a percussion corer. Additional samples were taken from the test trench opened up along part of one side of the depression.

### Zone E

A natural depression to the south-west of the Via Severiana between D5/D6 and the Imperial Villa (Tor Paterno) was sampled by percussion coring and two 1.7m cores through organic-rich sands were recovered.



Fig. 3 Zone E: View down to sampling site (arrowed).

### **Inland zone/Pozzo Napoliello**

Two sets of 1.5 m cores were taken from the interdune depression at Pozzo Napoliello and the continuation of this depression in a north westerly direction.



Fig. 4 Pozzo Napoliello sampling site.

### **Inland from the Vicus**

A series of 1.0m cores through interdune sands were taken along a transit running inland from the Vicus site.

A detailed contemporary vegetation survey was undertaken along the coastal strip between the Vicus and Tor Paterno.