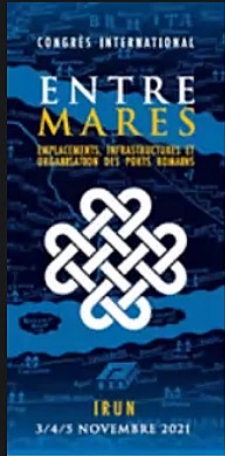




Recherches récentes sur le port de *Lattara* (Lattes)

Gaël Piques, Université Paul Valéry-Montpellier 3, ASM-UMR5140





RECENT RESEARCH ON THE ROMAN PORT OF *LATTARA* (LATTES, FRANCE)

Gaël PIQUÈS, Benjamin P. LULEY, Jean-Philippe DEGEAI, Christophe JORDA, Vivien MATHÉ, Núria ROVIRA

LATTARA



Map from Cavalier (1743)

- ❖ Port city founded ca. 500 BC and occupied until ca. AD 200
- ❖ Situated on a small headland on the Lez river by a large likely freshwater lagoon with acces to the see called stagnum latera (Pliny the Elder, H.N., IX, 29)



Entre Mares

STATE OF KNOWLEDGE

- ❖ Fouilles H. Prades (1965-1984)
- ❖ Fouilles M. Py dir. (1983-2001)



Survey 24 (H. Prades 1976): river quay (1st century AD)



Zone 19 (M. Py dir., 1993) : river quay (1st century AD)



Survey 22 (H. Prades 1975) : Augustan quay



Survey 9 & 9bis (H. Prades 1966-1967) : quay and remains of a wooden pontoon (or bridge?) from the 1st century AD



Entre Mares

STATE OF KNOWLEDGE



Dominique Garcia et Laure Vallet (dir.) : *L'espace portuaire de Lattes antique.* Lattara 15, Édition ADAL, Lattes, 2002, 223 p.



Quay of the 2nd c. BC and Augustan quay of the port area in front of the city gates



Warehouse n°3 (1st AD)



Directional lighthouse ? (1er s.)

Map of the port area (zones 26 and 34) from -25 to +75



Augustan quay



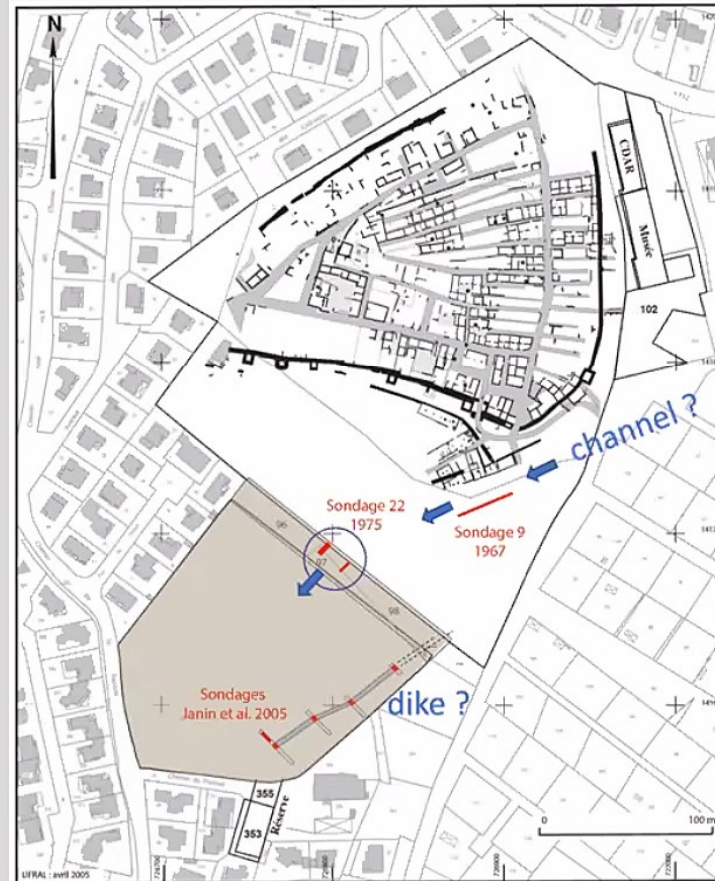
Entre Mares

NEW PROJECT (2016)

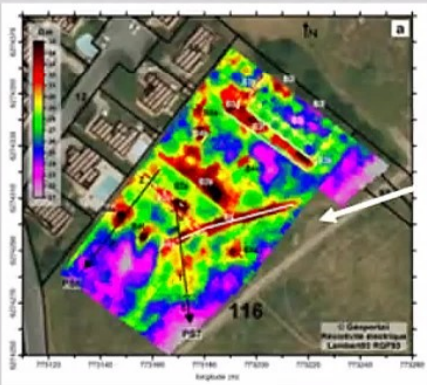


Main aims:

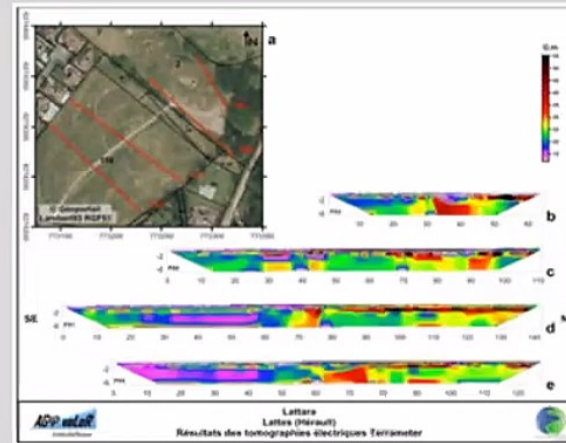
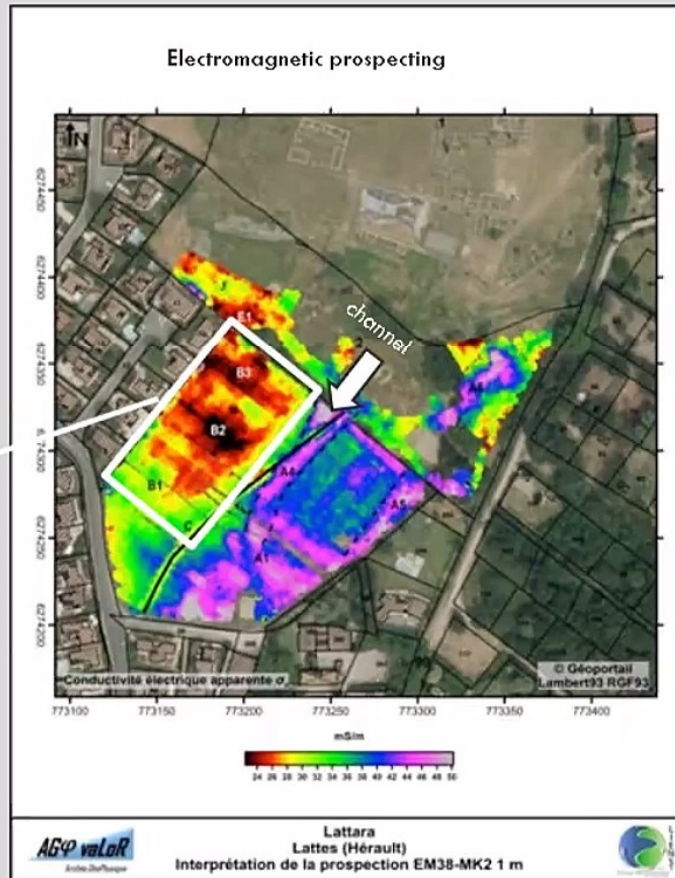
- ❖ Identify the limits of the southern extension of the city and the port
- ❖ Study of the port's infrastructure and environment
- ❖ Check the hypothesis of the existence of a port channel
- ❖ Characterize the palaeoenvironment and human activities



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS



Electrical resistivity map appearing at 1 m from the western half of the plot

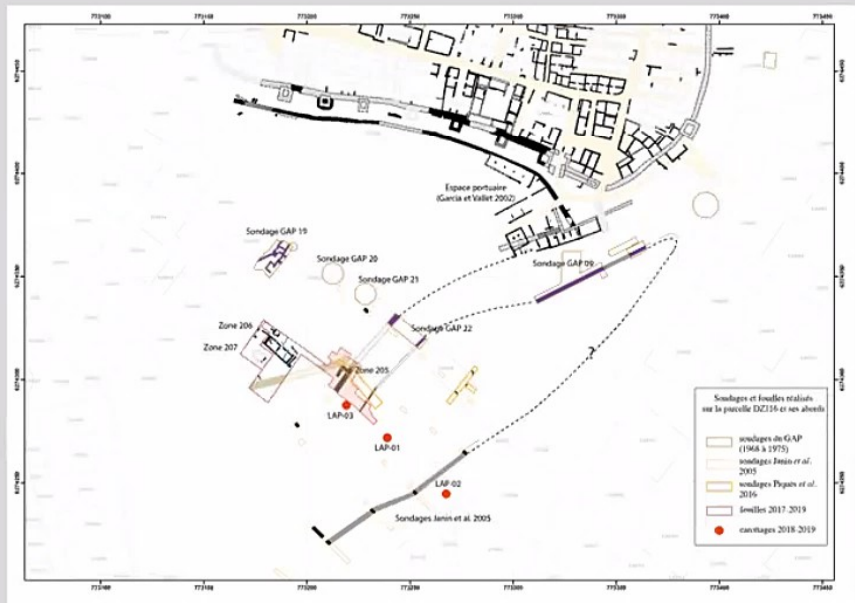


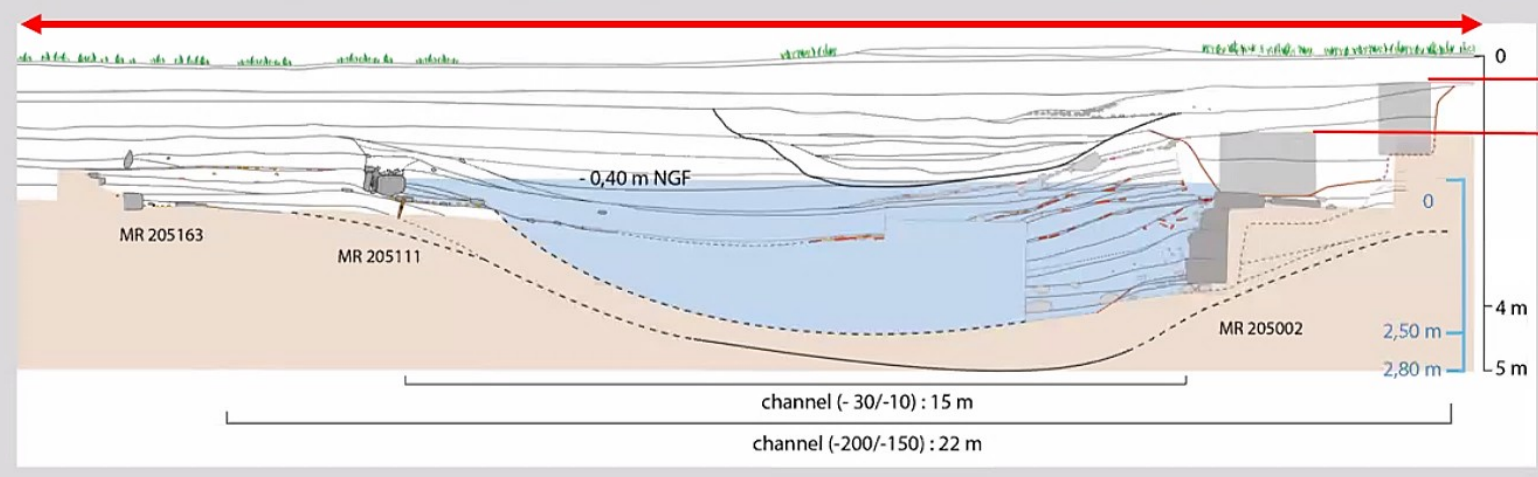
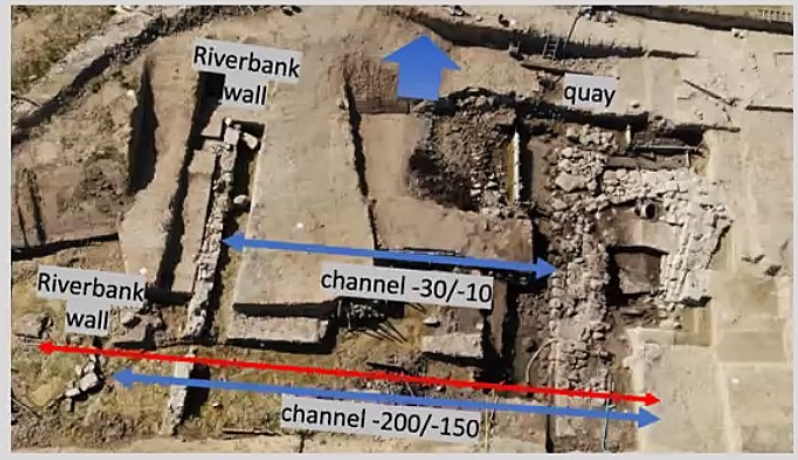
Electrical resistivity sections



Entre Mares

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

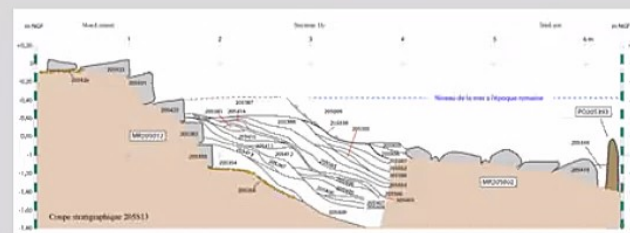




Ground +1/+50
Ground -50/-10

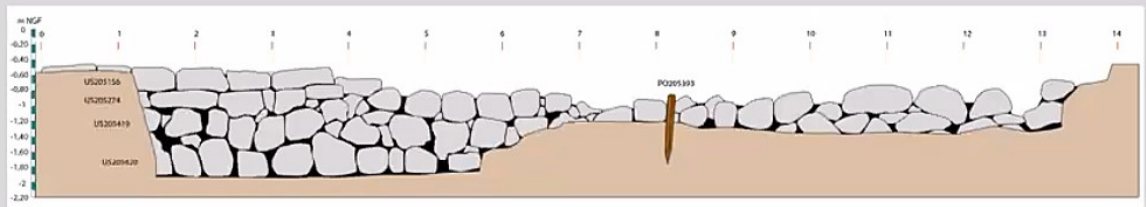


Channel from the beginning of the 2nd century BC

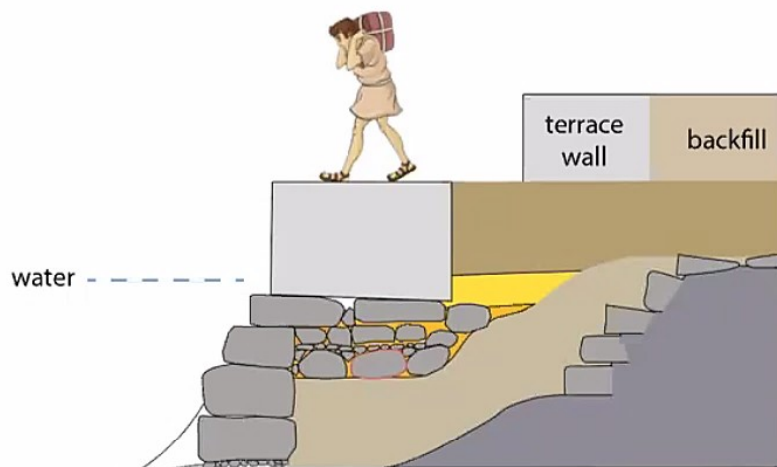




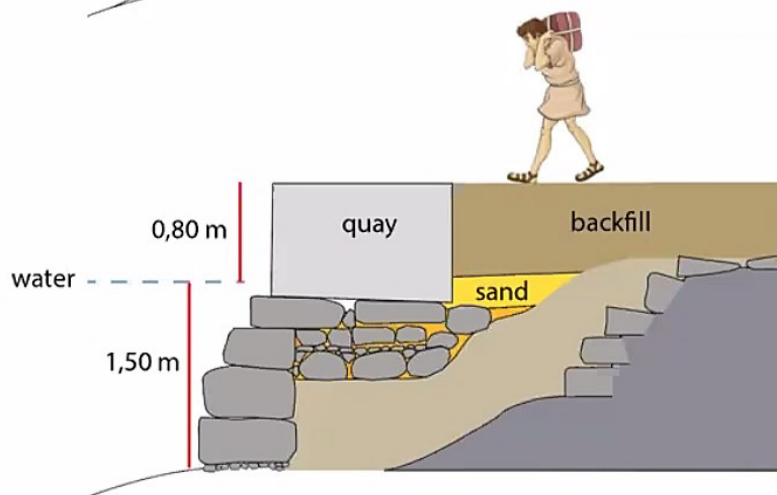
Channel from the end of the 1st century BC - right bank quay



Proposition of restitution of the right bank quay



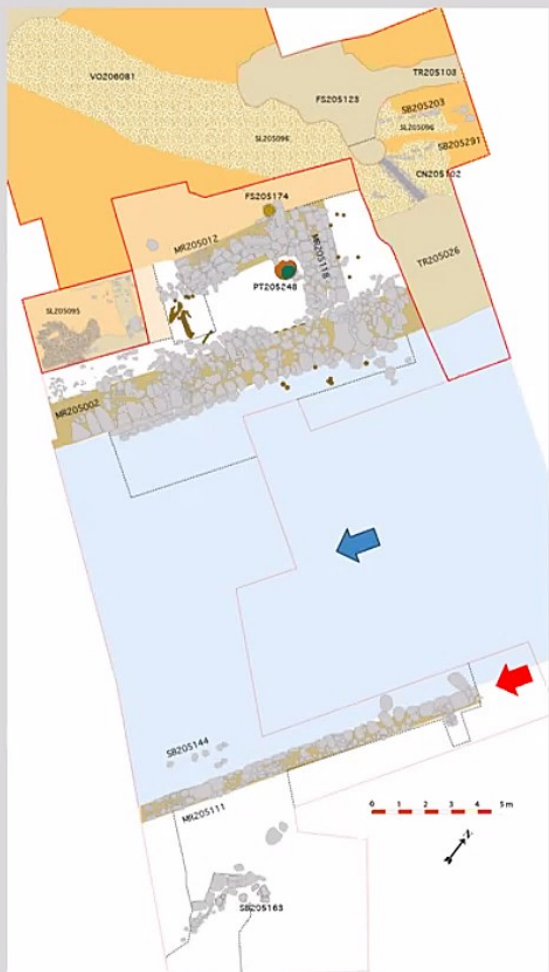
+1/+50



-50/-10



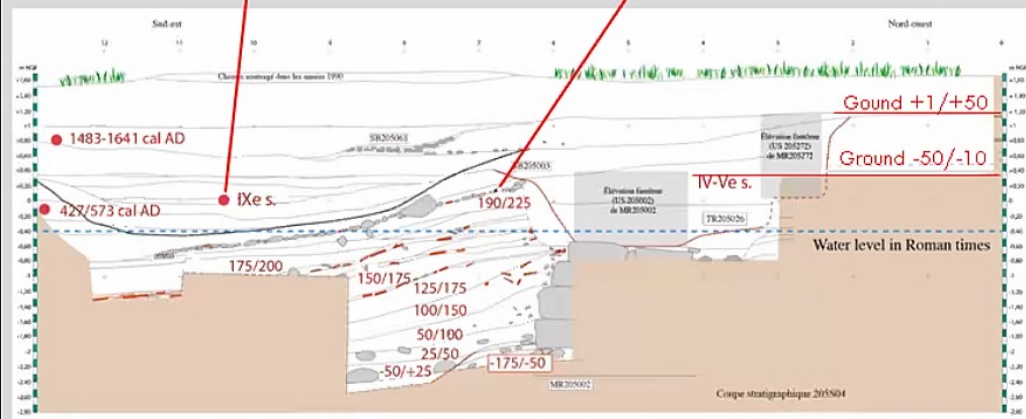
Channel from the end of the 1st century BC - left bank quay



Chronostratigraphy of the Augustan channel and later evolution



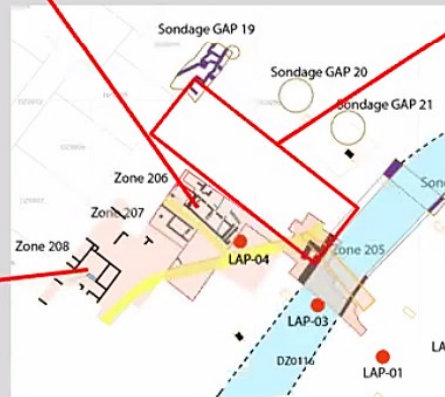
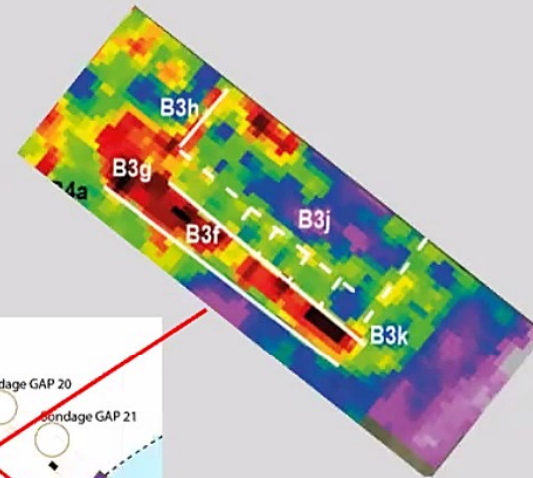
- ❖ **Phase B3** (-30/+75): new channel (water depth: 2.50 to 2 m)
- ❖ **Phase B2** (+ 75/+150): accentuation of anthropogenic discharges and fluvial sedimentation. The water current becomes weaker. The channel is still navigable for shallow draft vessels
- ❖ **Phase B1** (+175 /+ 225): successive development of four strikes built on stones and tiles. Water depth from 1m to 0.40m; the channel is only used for boats with a flat bottom
- ❖ **Phase A3** (4th-5th century AD): stonework of the quay and the terrace wall
- ❖ **Phase A2** (9th c. AD): excavation of a small canal or ditch



The port terrace



Shops and warehouses (-25/+50)



Large building with central courtyard surrounded by small rooms: horreum, macellum...?



Domus (-25/+50)

- ❖ It lacks about 1 m of stratigraphy, leveled by the floods of the river Lez
- ❖ Levels after the first half of the 1st c. AD are little preserved
- ❖ The only remains from the 2nd c. AD are pit bottoms and rare wall foundations



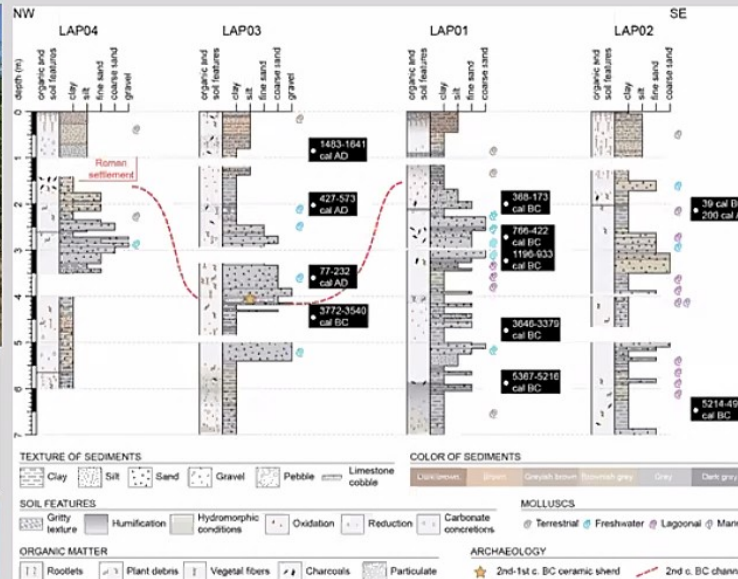
Entre Mares

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- ❖ Fluvio-lagonn environments and their evolution
- ❖ Exploitation of animal and plant resources
- ❖ Production activities (winemaking, fish sauces, etc.)



Palynological sampling



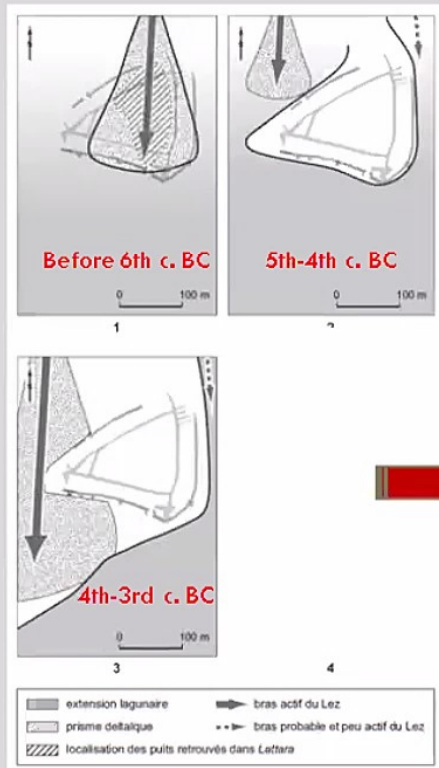
Archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological sampling and sieving

Geomorphological coring

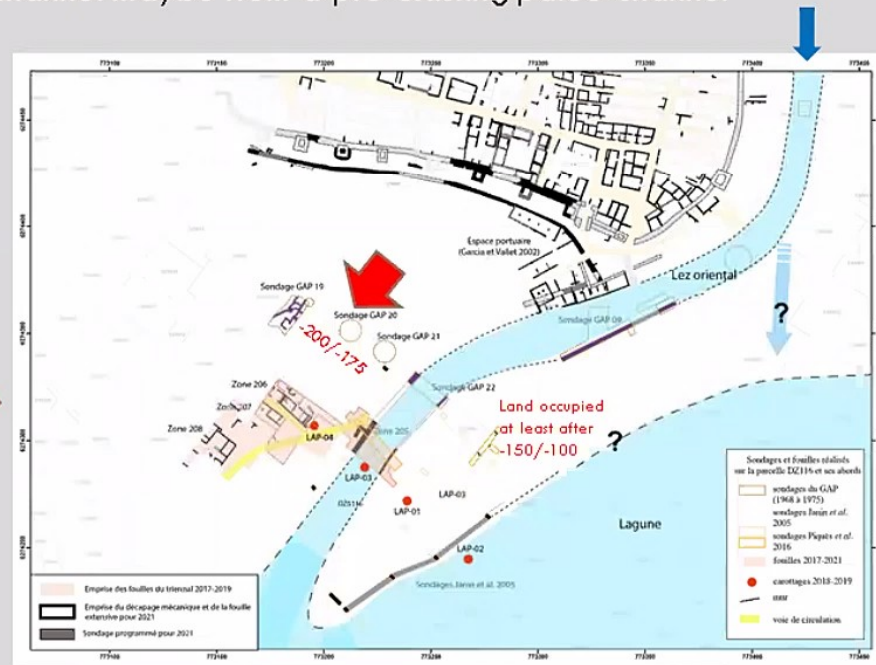


Entre Mares

NEW HYPOTHESIS



- ❖ Towards -200 / -175, extension of the city to the south on reclaimed land from the lagoon by the river Lez alluvium (survey 20 and 21, GAP)
- ❖ At the same period, reorganization of the port, digging of the channel maybe from a pre-existing paleo-channel



The Augustan port of Lattara: new hypothesis



Jorda et al. 2008, Gallia