

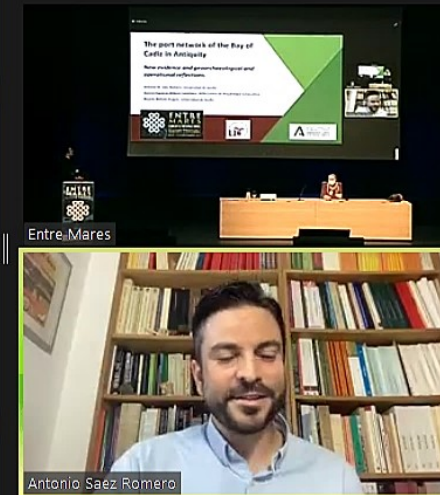
The port network of the Bay of Cadiz in Antiquity

New evidence and geoarchaeological and operational reflections.

Antonio M. Sáez Romero, Universidad de Sevilla

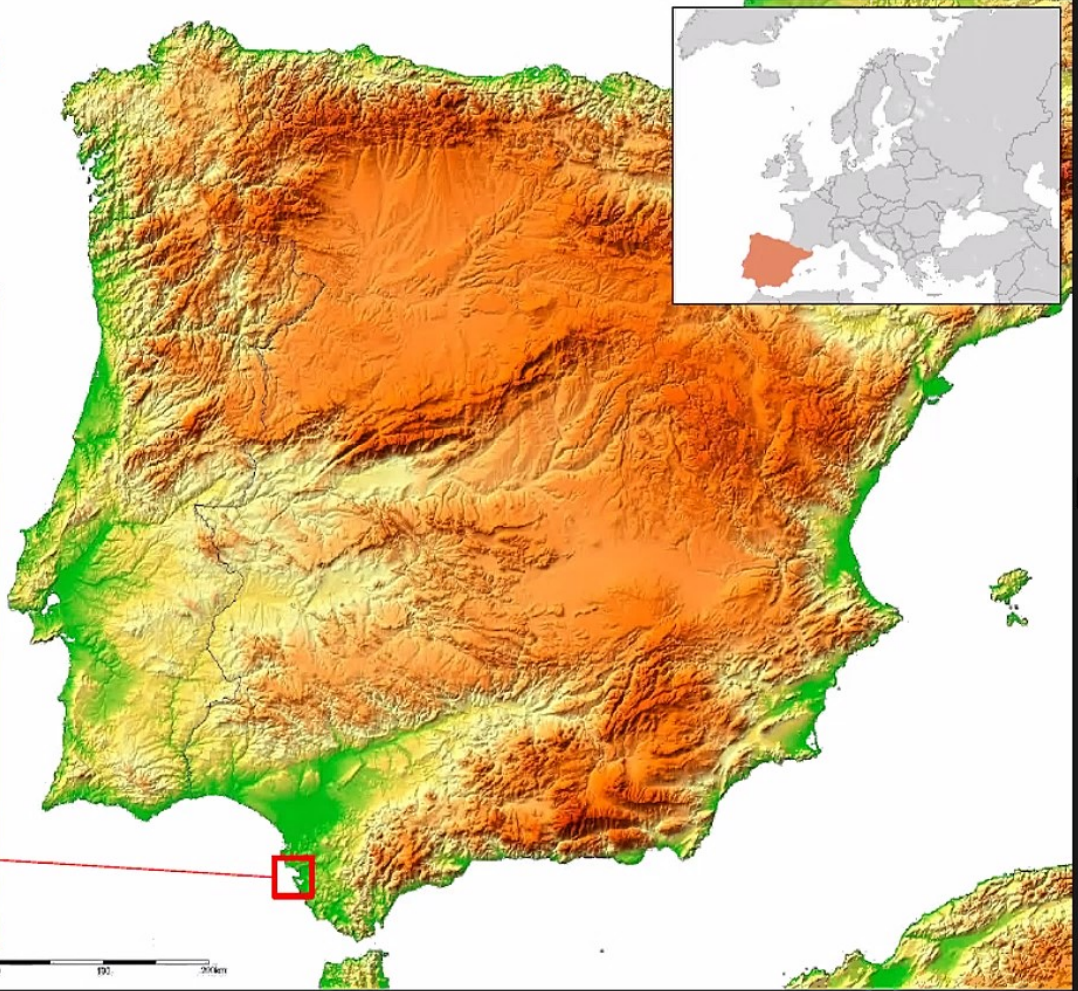
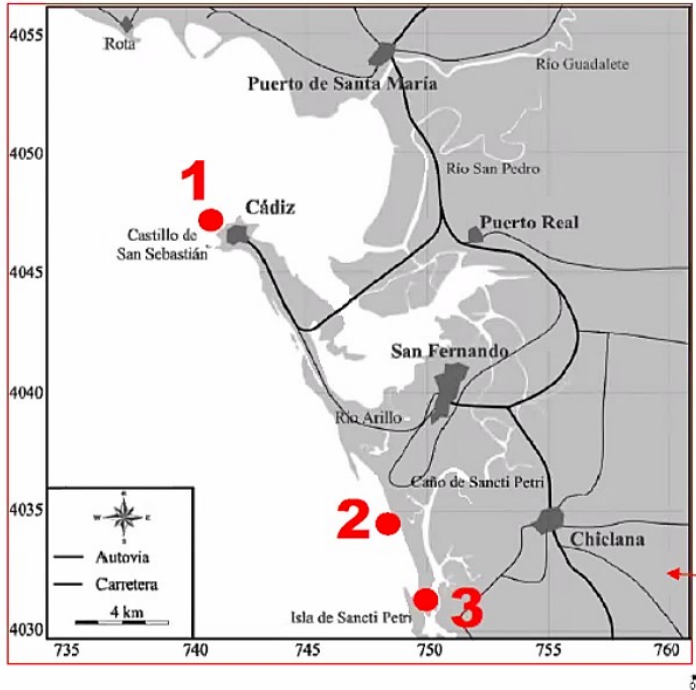
Aurora Higuera-Milena Castellano, IAPH-Centro de Arqueología Subacuática

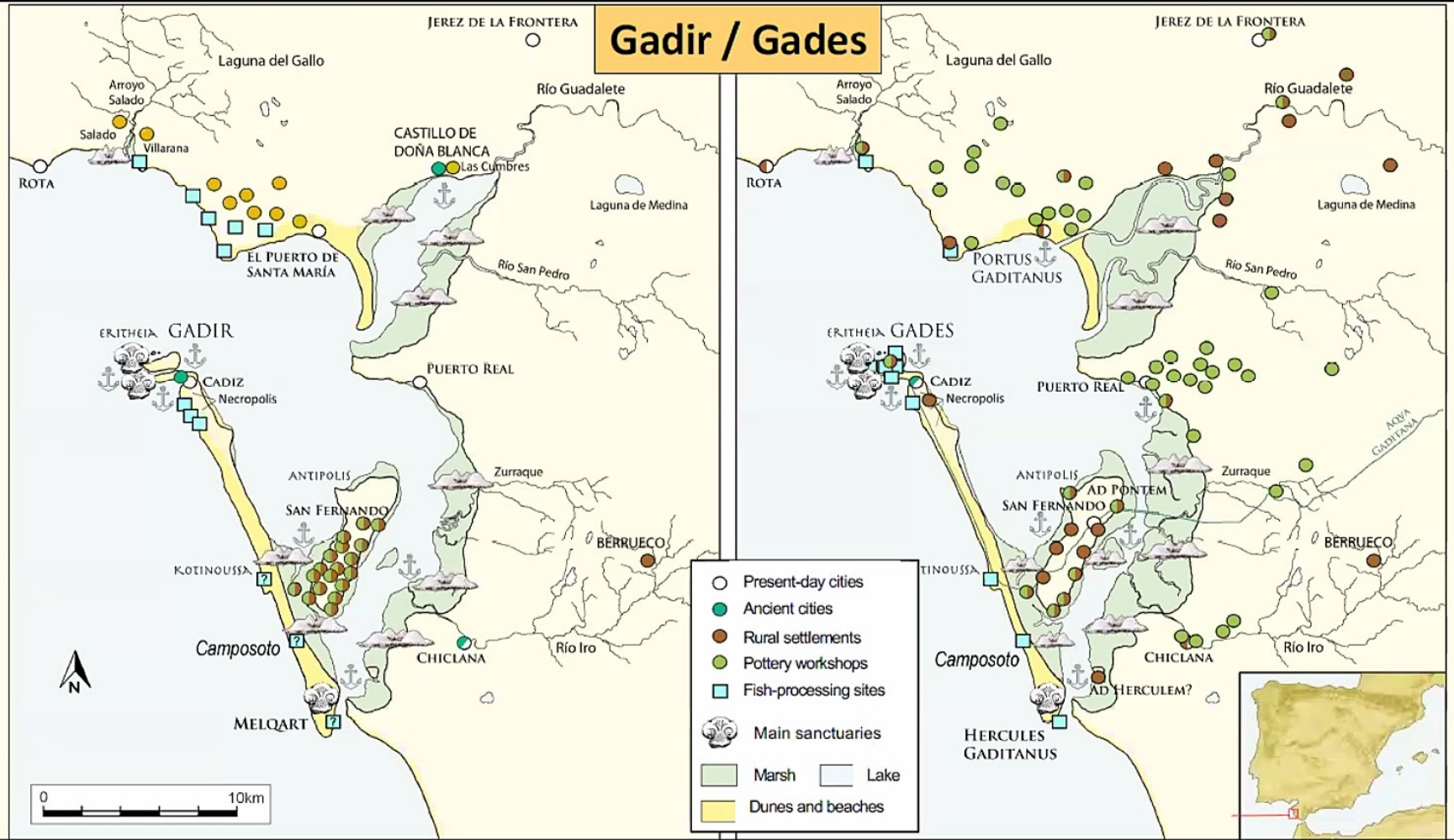
Ricardo Belizón Aragón, Universidad de Sevilla



1. Location of the area / sites

- 1. La Caleta
- 2. Camposoto
- 3. Sancti Petri

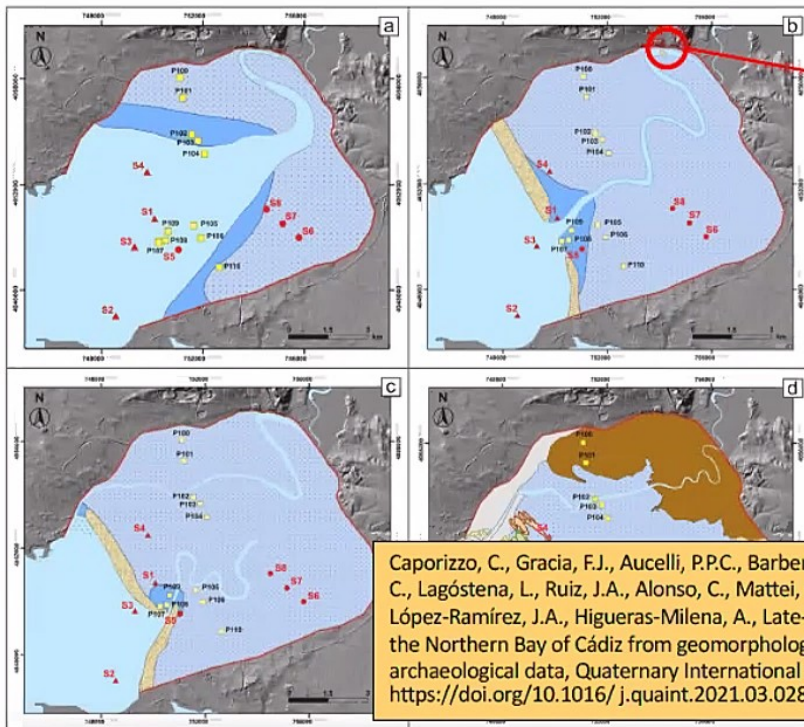




Antonio Saez Romero

2. Context and background: the port landscape of Cádiz Bay in Antiquity

C. Pemán Pemartín, (1959) **Alfares y embarcaderos romanos en la provincia de Cádiz**, *Archivo Español de Arqueología*, vol. XXXII, 169-173.



Caporizzo, C., Gracia, F.J., Aucelli, P.P.C., Barbero, L., Martín-Puertas, C., Lagóstena, L., Ruiz, J.A., Alonso, C., Mattei, G., Galán-Ruffoni, I., López-Ramírez, J.A., Higuera-Milena, A., Late-Holocene evolution of the Northern Bay of Cádiz from geomorphological, stratigraphic and archaeological data, *Quaternary International* (2021), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2021.03.028>.



La Martela – Castillo de Doña Blanca



Antonio Saez Romero

2. Context and background: the port landscape of Cádiz Bay in Antiquity

EL PUERTO GADITANO DE BALBO
El Puerto de Santa María. Cádiz



Juan José López Amador

López Amador, J. J. - Pérez Fernández, E., 2013: *El puerto gaditano de Balbo, El Puerto de Santa María. Cádiz, El Puerto de Santa María.*

An man-made Roman canal at the mouth of the Guadalete?



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2. Context and background: the port landscape of Cádiz Bay in Antiquity

Docks or salt works?

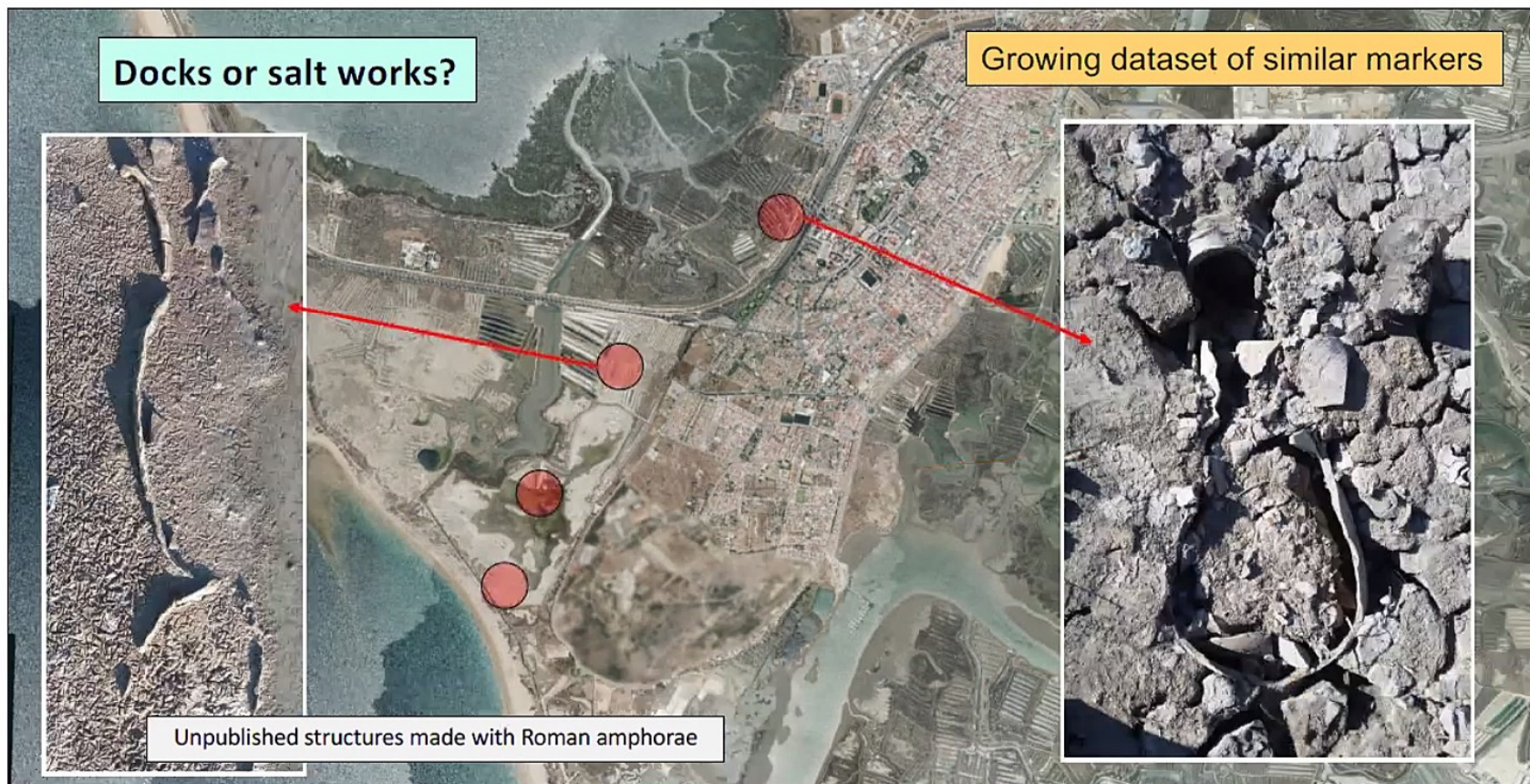
Los Cargaderos (San Fernando)



Bernal D., Sáez, A. M., Montero R., Díaz J. J., Sáez A., Moreno D., Toboso E., 2005: «Instalaciones fluviomarítimas de drenaje con ánforas romanas: a propósito del embarcadero flavio del caño de Sancti Petri (San Fernando, Cádiz)», SPAL 14, 179-230.

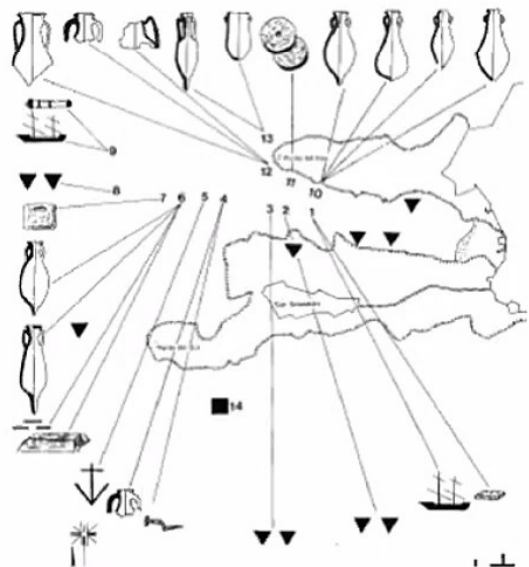


2. Context and background: the port landscape of Cádiz Bay in Antiquity



3.1. La Caleta

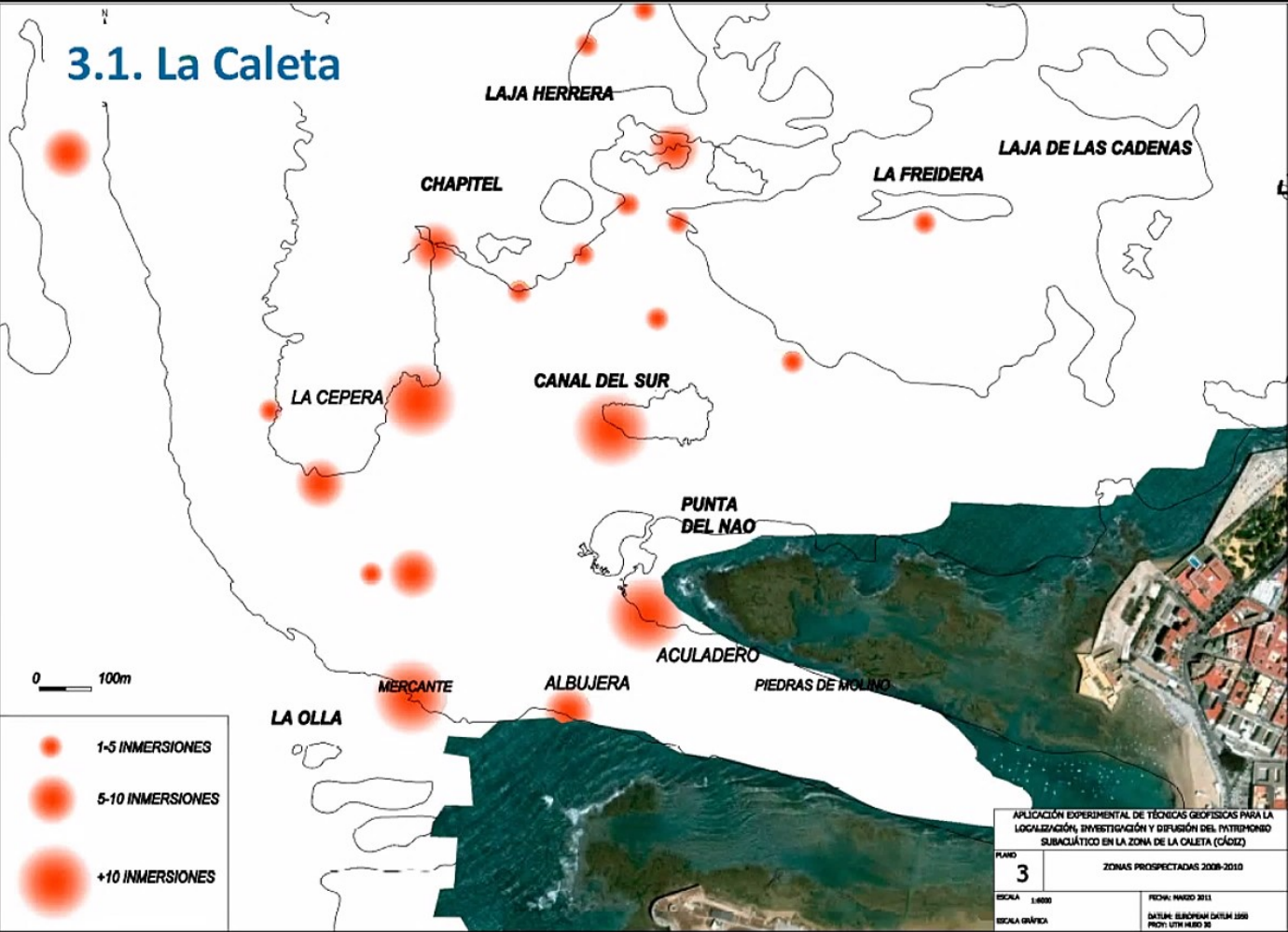
Important discoveries since the 19th century (scientific activities delayed, since the 1970s)



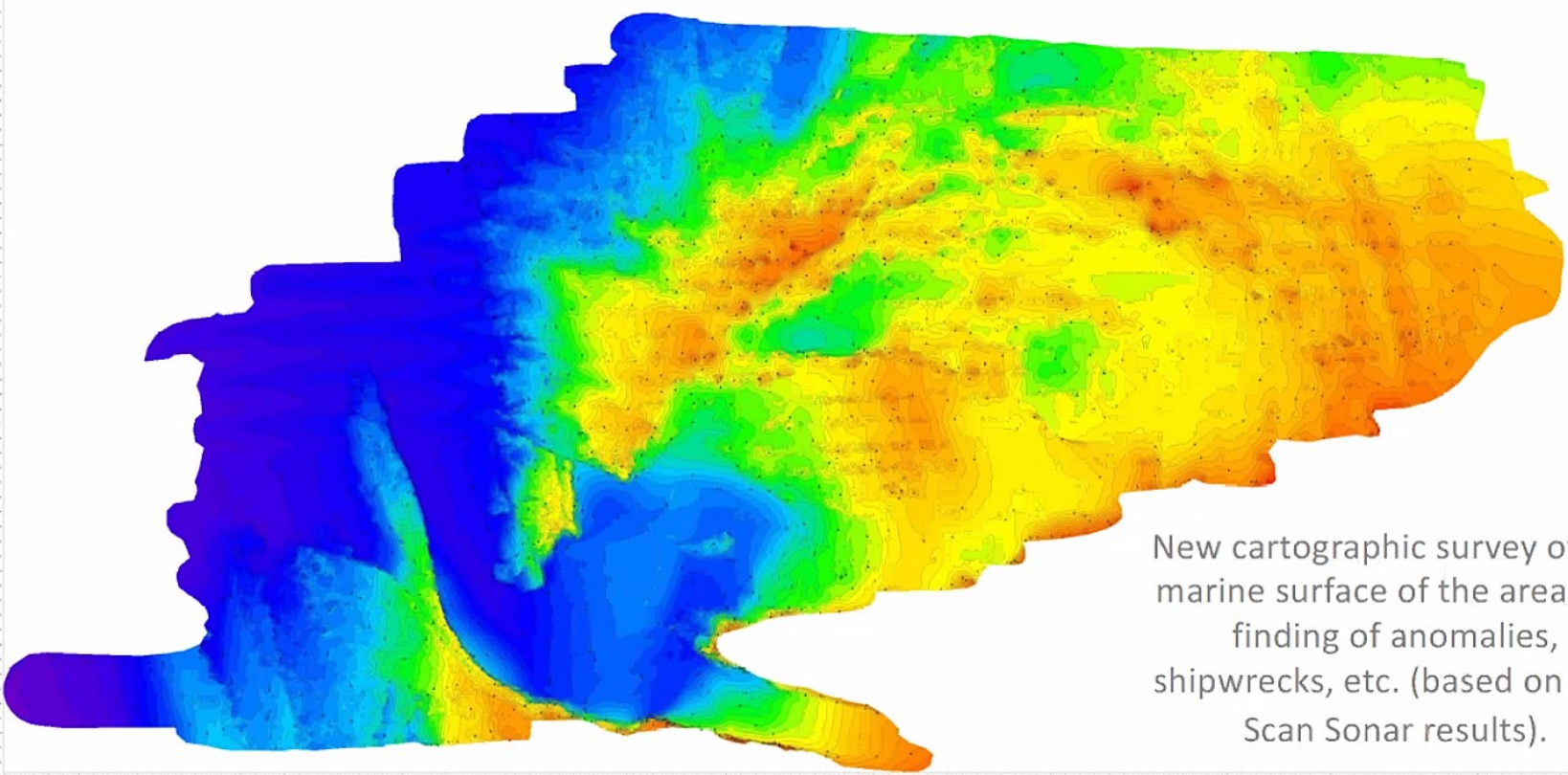
Mostly Phoenician and Roman pottery finds



3.1. La Caleta



3.1. La Caleta

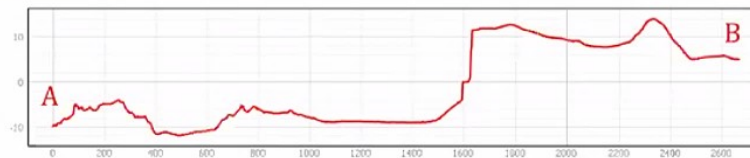
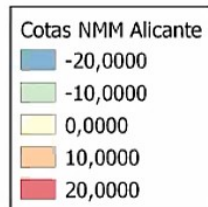
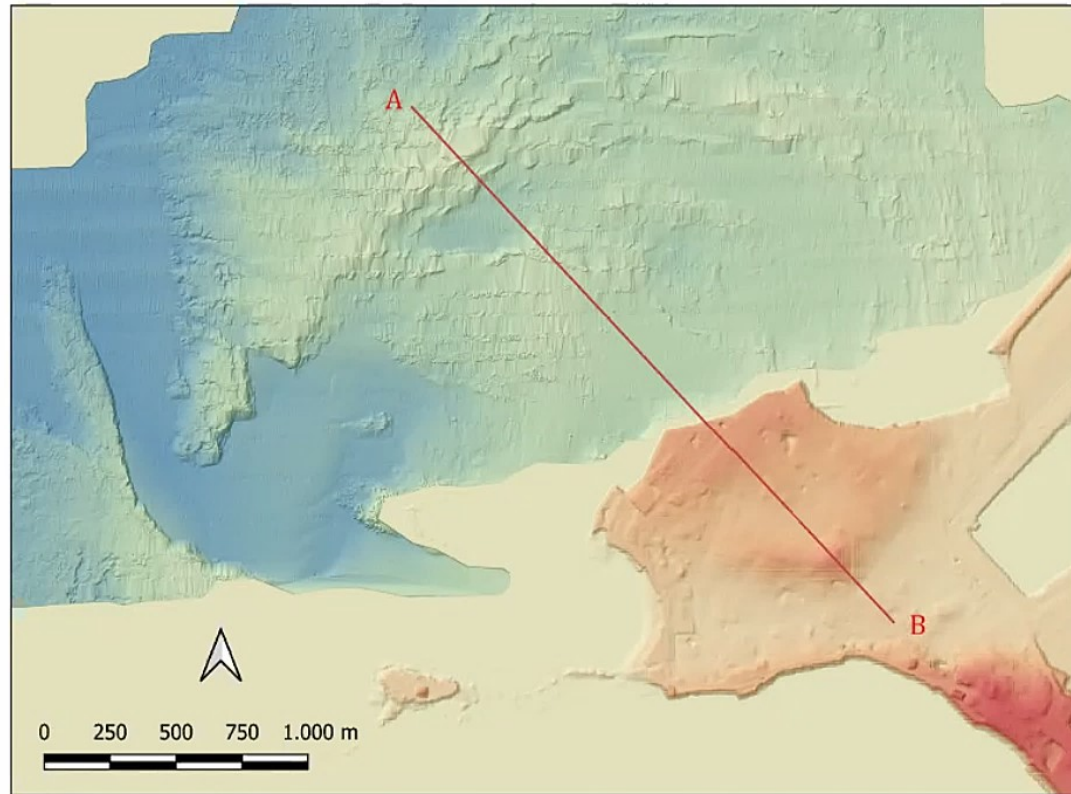


New cartographic survey of the marine surface of the area and finding of anomalies, shipwrecks, etc. (based on Side Scan Sonar results).



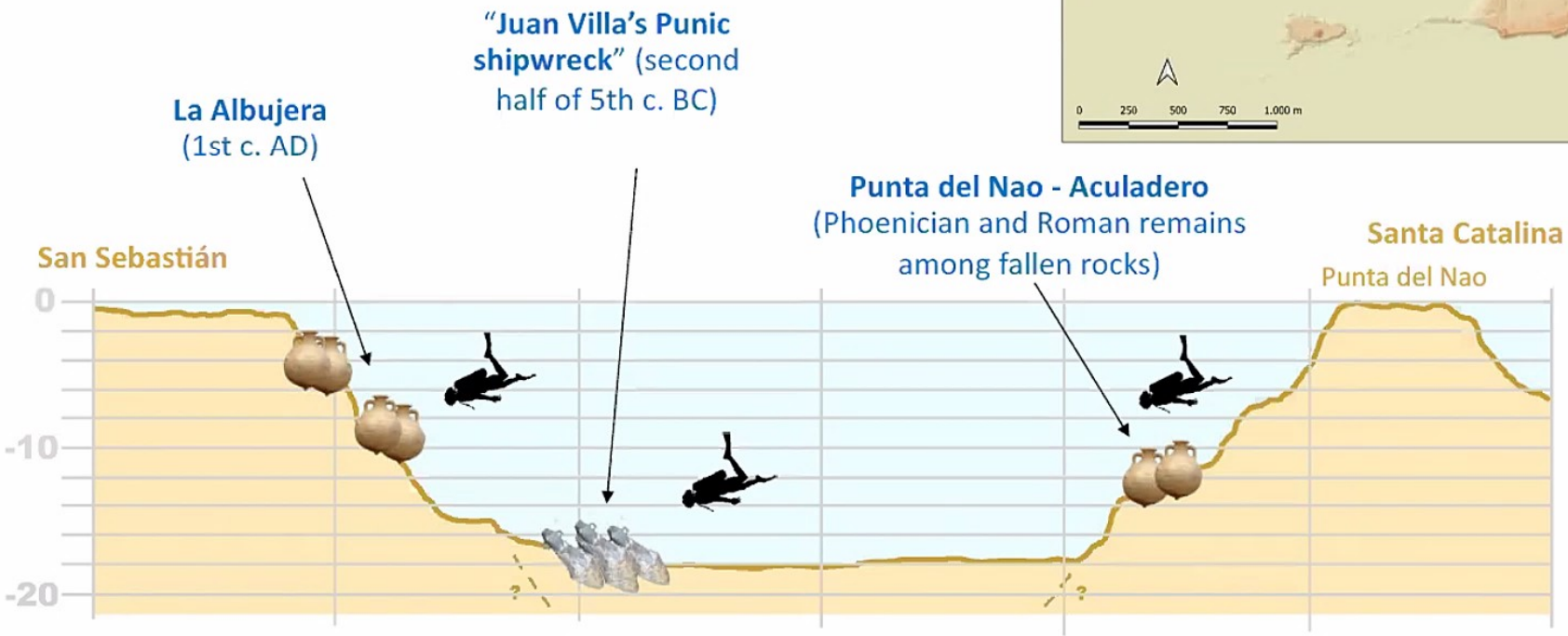
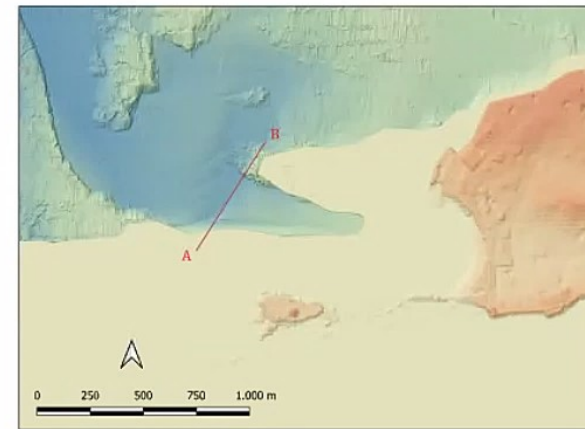
3.1. La Caleta

Merging the results with the terrestrial Digital Terrain Model (and obtaining the first sections of key areas for the study of the geomorphological evolution of La Caleta).

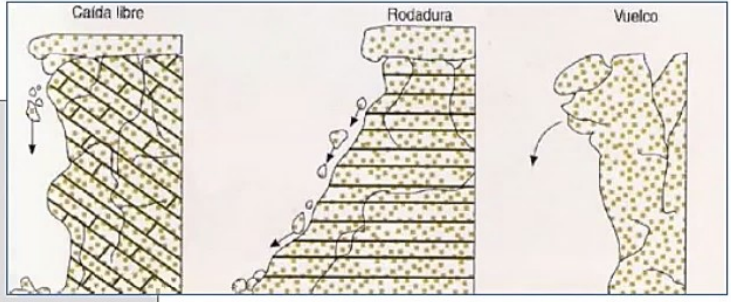
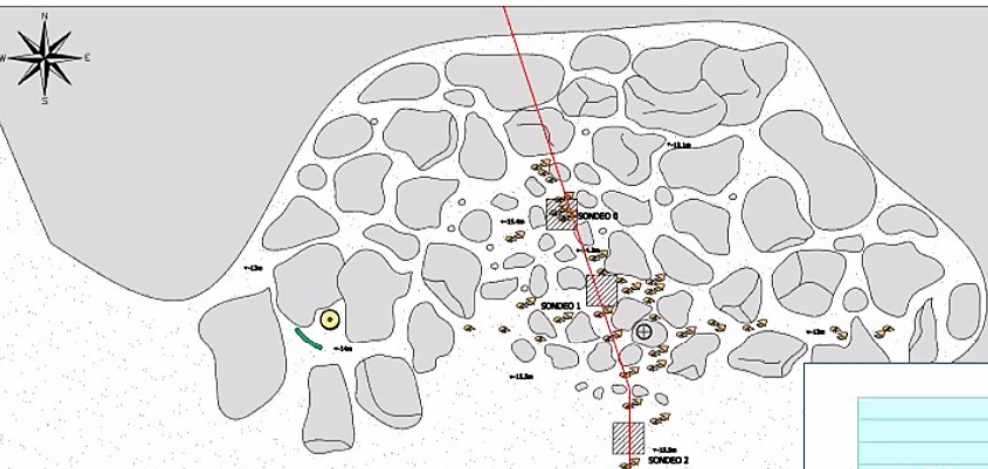


3.1. La Caleta

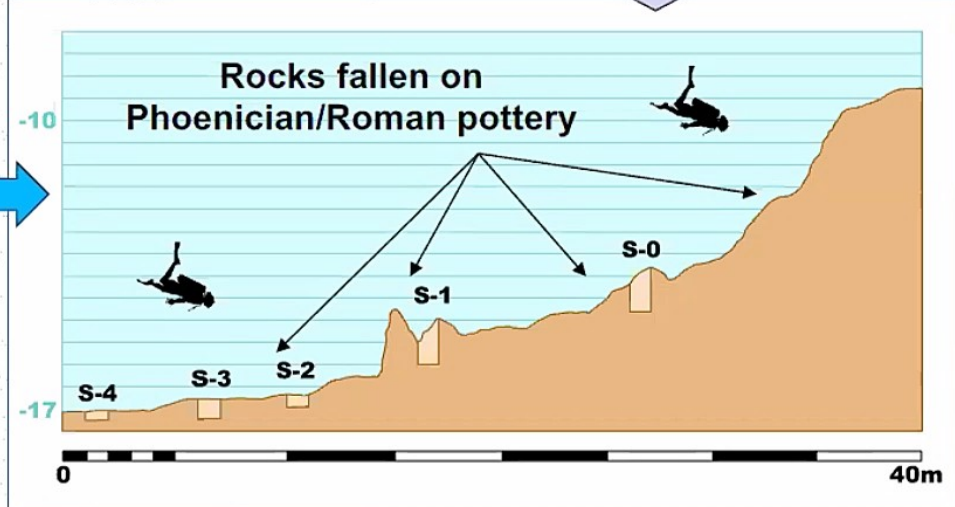
Markers of ancient sea level and erosion patterns
(little explicit evidence)



3.1. La Caleta: La Cepera site



collapsed cliff?



- LEYENDA
- SONDEOS
 - ARENA
 - ROCA
 - CERÁMICA
 - PIEDRA DE MOLINO
 - BARRA DE METAL



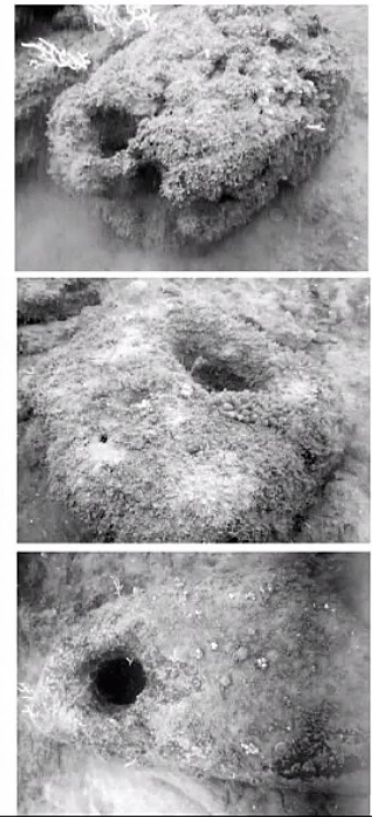
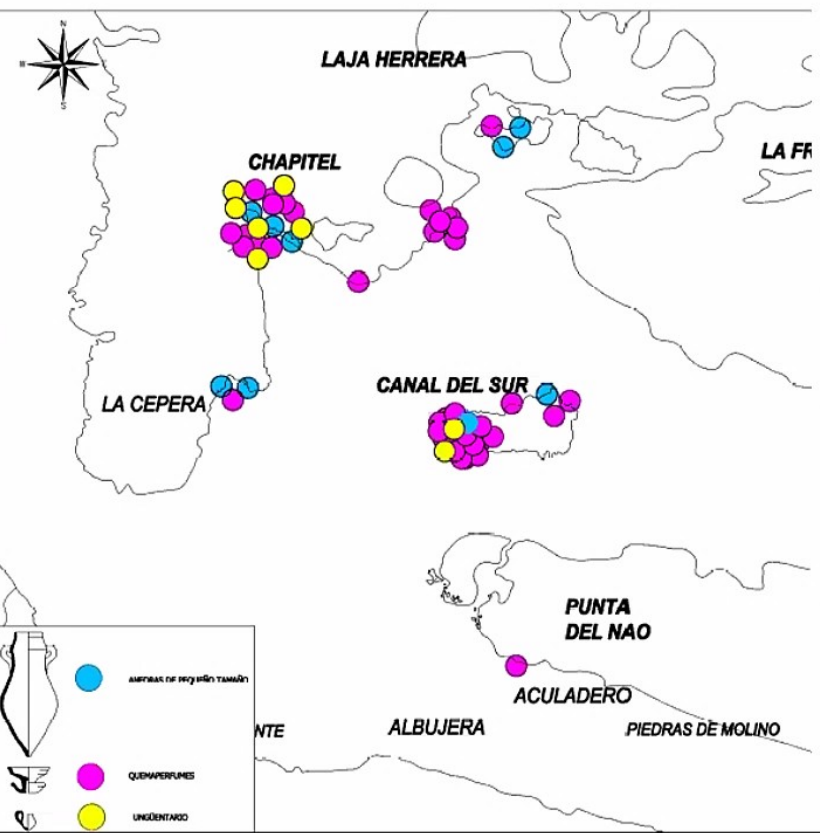
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3.1. La Caleta: La Cepera



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3.1. La Caleta: tracking and geolocation of other markers

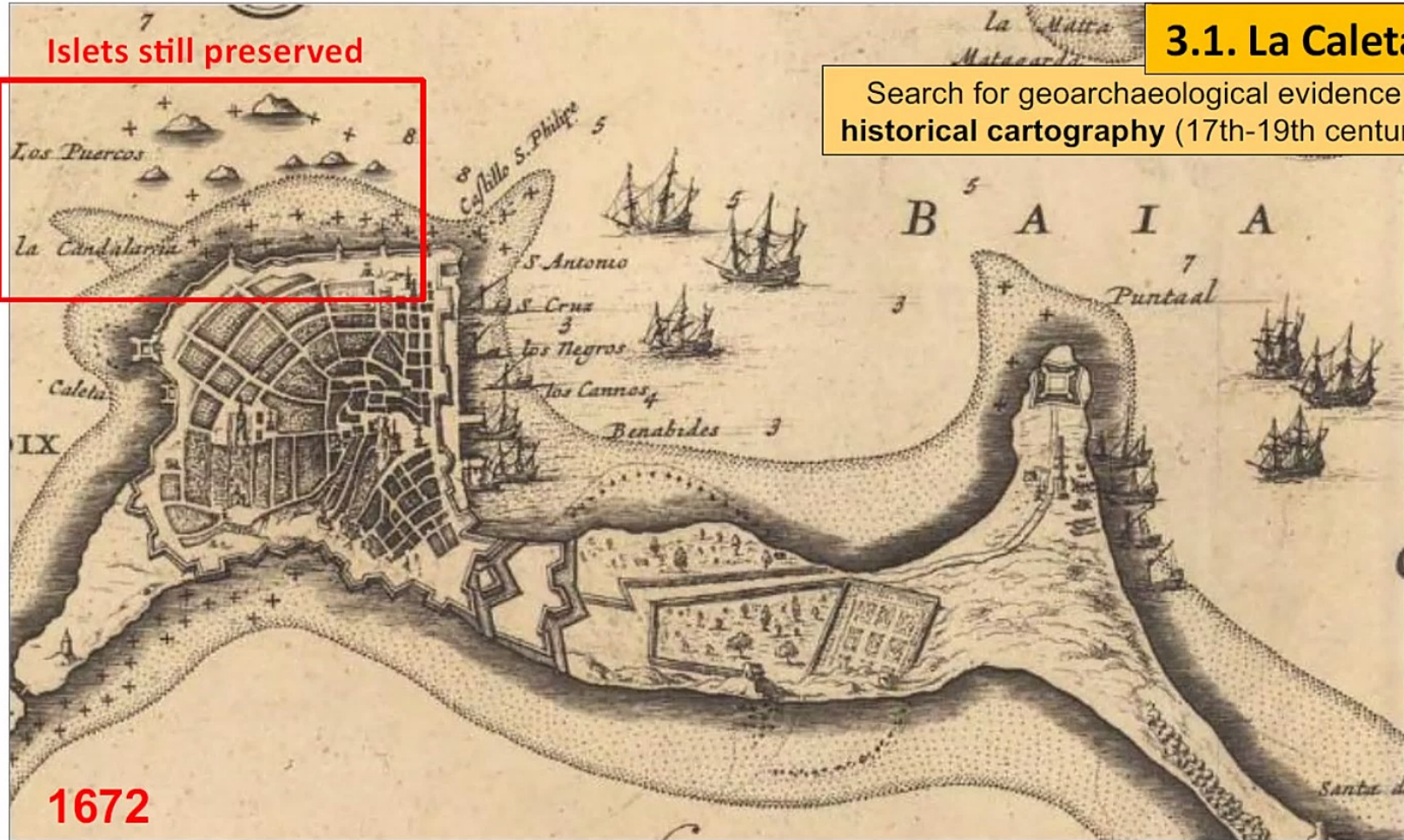


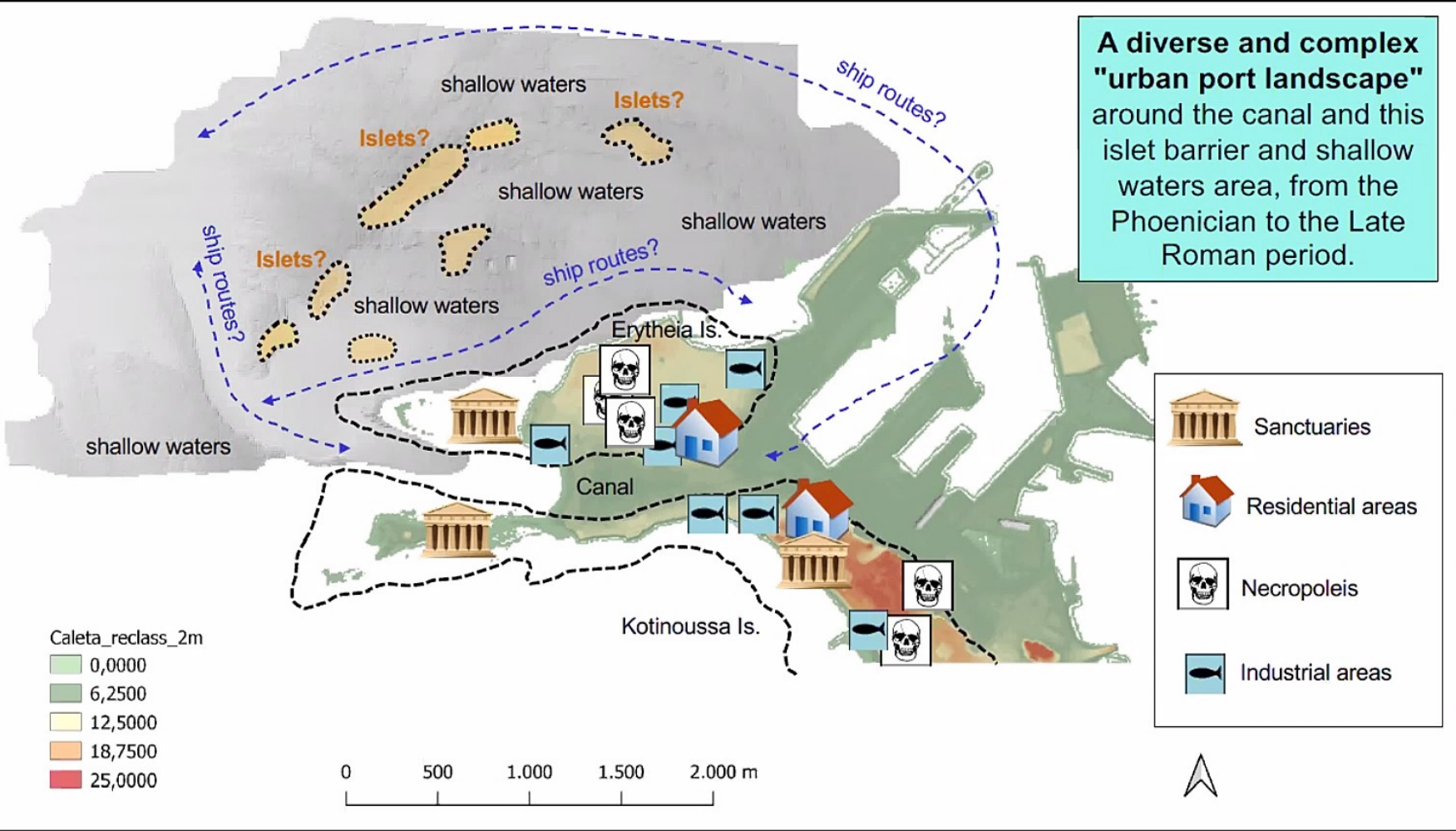
Islets still preserved



3.1. La Caleta

Search for geoarchaeological evidence in historical cartography (17th-19th centuries)





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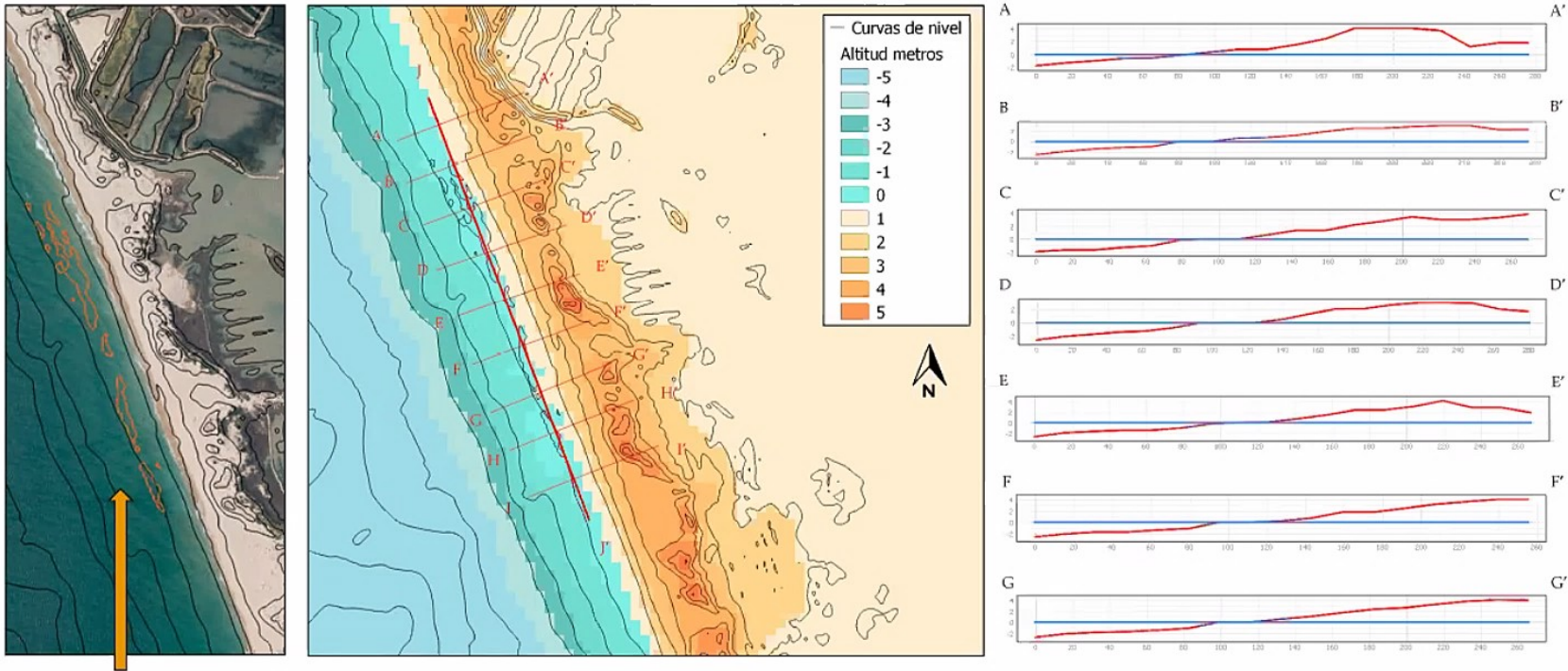
3.2. Camposoto Beach

For decades isolated finds in this area close to the sanctuary of Melqart/Hercules have been occurring regularly and on a small scale.

The storms and the rise of the sea level have accelerated the erosion in the last decade and have uncovered findings more frequently, allowing a first approach to the site: a possible industrial suburb or extra-urban cluster, perhaps linked to the sanctuary or to the nearby rural establishments, in operation between the Punic and the Late Roman periods. **A large-scale artisanal hub linked to maritime activities and fishing in the vicinity of the city's most important temple.**



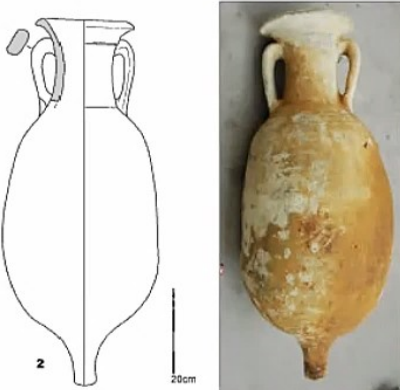
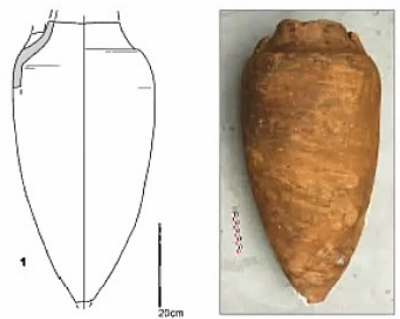
3.2. Camposoto Beach



Detected both on site and through bathymetry review a large "anomaly" that corresponds to the area of distribution of the Punic-Roman finds recorded along the nearby sand bar.



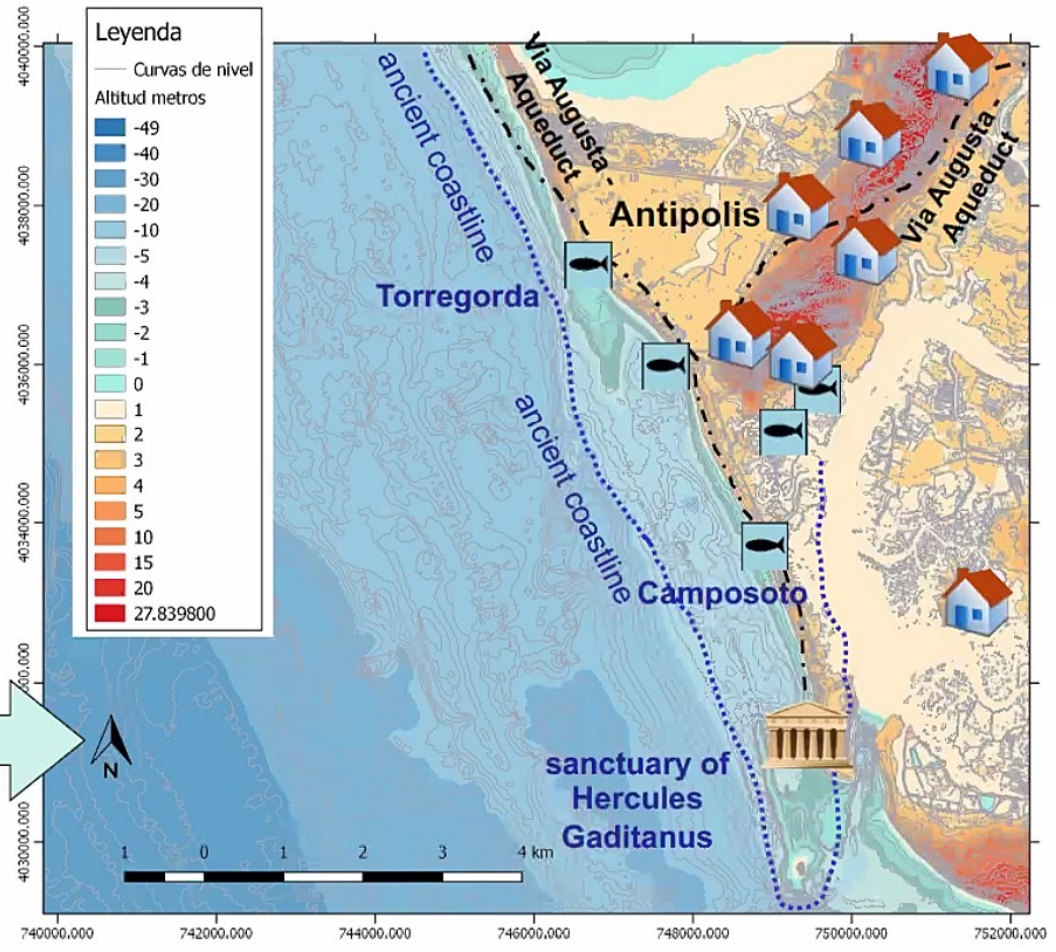
3.2. Camposoto



3.2. Camposoto Beach

Largely destroyed, but it suggests the potential use of the paleochannels for small boats (in marshlands), and also that some vessels (mainly fishing boats) could be directly beached on the sand for daily operations or repairs.

Maritime and rural landscape of the Camposoto - Sancti Petri area, and location of the main artisanal hubs, villae and the sanctuary of Hercules Gaditanus in Roman times.

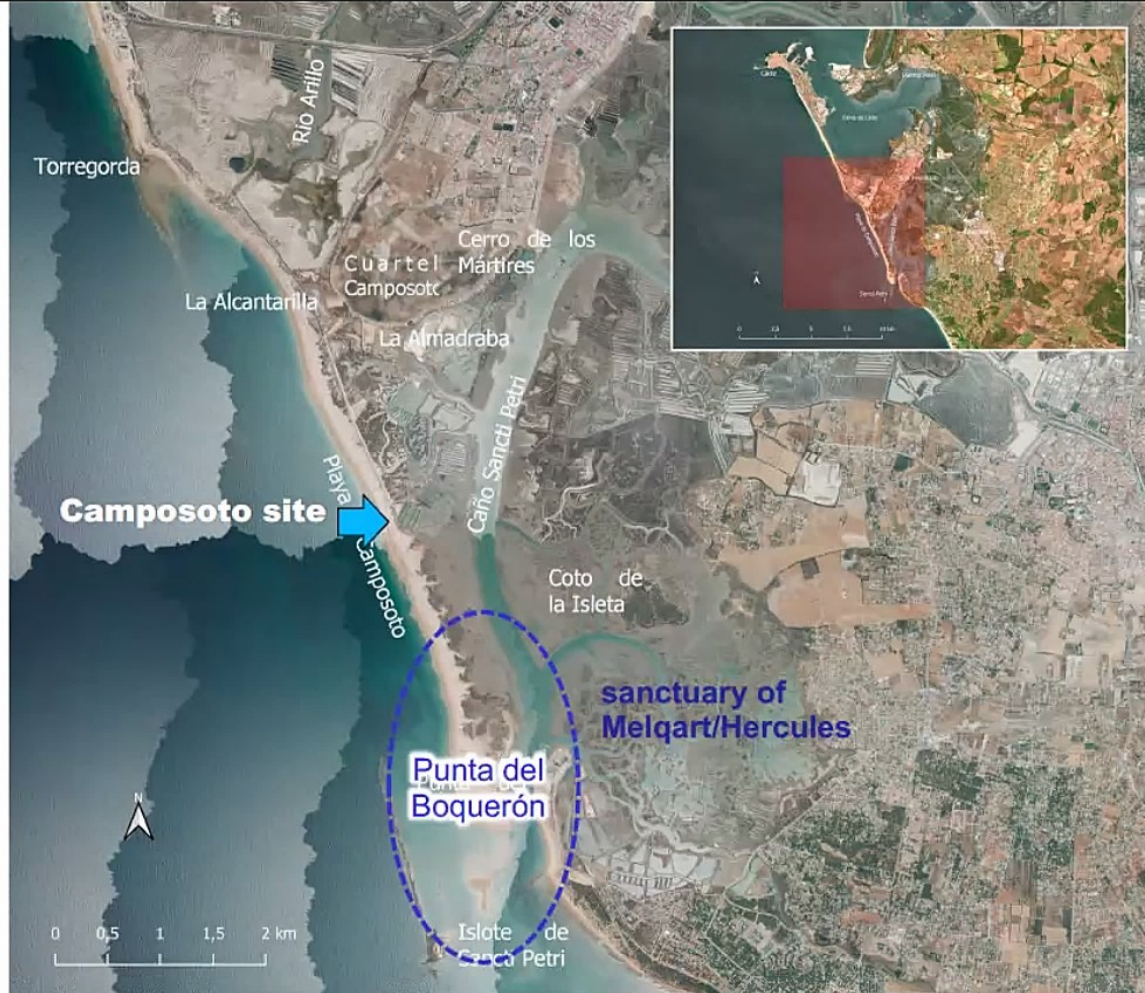


3.3. Sancti Petri

The Camposoto findings led to a detailed review of the historical cartography and archaeological remains of the entire sector.

Possibly in Punta del Boqueron there could be remains of a **"closed port" and other structures.**

Key area for Gadir/Gades due to the location of its main maritime sanctuary (devoted to Melqart / Hercules)



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3.3. Sancti Petri: where was the sanctuary of Melqart/Hercules?

Traditional location on islet or in the surroundings, but...



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3.3. Sancti Petri: where was the sanctuary of Melqart/Hercules?



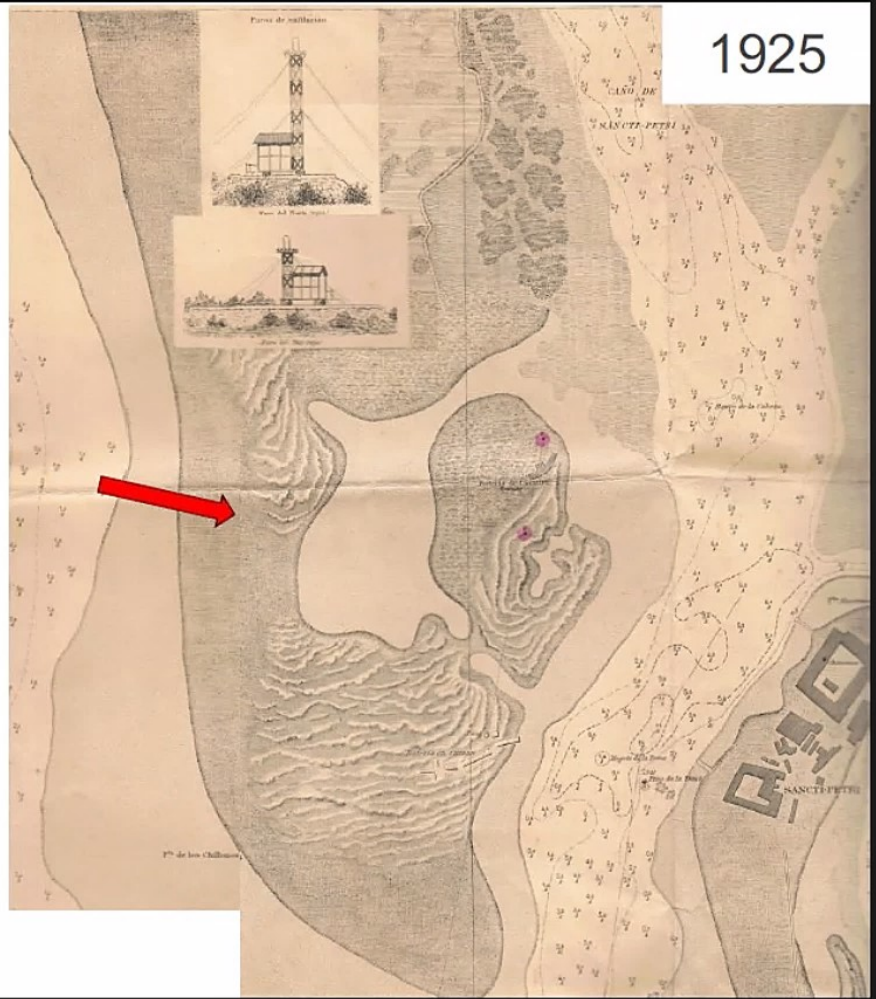
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1809



1925



Entre Mares



3.3. Sancti Petri

Initial surveys (on land and under the canal), old finds, historical cartography, etc., suggest that **the area may have been highly anthropized**, with a large enclosed harbor, docks, piers and other structures that are currently beneath the marshes or submerged.

Microtectonics, with the subsidence of this area between Late Antiquity and early medieval times, could be key factor for this "disappearance" of the temple and these structures.

