Mapping the Ager Faliscus road-system: the contribution of LiDAR (light detection and ranging) survey

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Earlier work on the Faliscan area (G.C.)

The *Ager Faliscus* lies north of Rome, between the Monti Cimini, the *via Cassia*, the Monti Sabatini, the Tiber, and Monte Soratte. In the mid-19th c., architects and antiquarians began excavations and surveys of monuments at *Falerii Novi* and Civita Castellana. The archaeological evidence for the region was first synthesised by George Dennis. The first systematic survey of the region was carried out between 1881 and 1897 by A. Cozza and A. Pasqui, within the ambitious and consequently incomplete project of the *Carta Archeologica d’Italia* sponsored by the Direzione Generale alle Antichità. The work undertaken for the *Ager Faliscus* component was published later as manuscripts and notes, consisting of the full report of excavations and surveys at Civita Castellana (*Falerii Veteres*), Santa Maria di Falleri (*Falerii Novi*) and their territories. Carried out with a positivist approach typical of late 19th-c. archaeology, the work focused on detailed recording of archaeological data and topographical elements. At about the same time, important data were collected in the Faliscan centres of Narce and Corchiano. At the beginning of 20th c., the archaeological picture was expanded by exploration of prehistoric sites. After the Second World War, dramatic change in Italian rural landscapes, a product of the growing mechanization of agriculture and the increasing destruction of archaeological sites, led the British School at Rome to start a new campaign of surveys in the *Ager Faliscus*, under the supervision of J. B. Ward Perkins. Surveys were carried out in the 1950s concentrated along Roman roads (*Flaminia, Amerina and Cassia*) and around the main centres (*Nepi, Civita Castellana, Falerii Novi*). For the first time, rural sites and small fragments of pottery were recorded, and attention shifted from monumental contexts towards the organization of settlements and road-systems, supported not only by work on the ground but also by aerial photographs made available from the archives of the Royal Air Force. The results, promptly published, led to a new phase of interest in the *Ager Faliscus*, which was followed by rescue excavations in the area of Narce and further surveys between the *via Cassia* and *via Flaminia*. Since the beginning of the 1980s, interest has focused on the main cities of Faliscan territory such as Corchiano and Falerii, supplemented by small-scale thematic surveys in the territory.

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9. E.g., for pre-Roman and Roman phases see the articles by G. Cifani and M. Munzi, A. Camilli *et al*., and