Protection of the LIMES Dalkinger Gate



Picture 1. Remnants of the LIMES Dalkinger Gate before the construction of a protective shelter Source: Rainau municipality (https://www.rainau.de/index.php?id=203&L=0)

Among the ancient Roman artefacts along the LIMES border, the former LIMES Gate near Dalkingen is of particular importance. In 213 and 214 A.D, probably in connection with a victorious campaign by Emperor Caracalla against the Alemanni, a remarkable, 12-meter-high Roman triumphal arch with a large bronze imperial statue was created. It is the only gate system that has been found along the over 500 km long Upper Germanic-Rhaetian Limes. The remnants of the Dalkinger Gate were uncovered in 1974/75 during excavations, and were under poor condition from the effects of weathering since then. Thus, it was decided in 2008/2009 to build a protective shelter above the archaeological site. The structure consists of filigree steel materials; a glass cube with a width of 23.10 m, a length of 22.85 m and a height of 7 to 16 m. A light metal construction covered with printed fabric strips within the glass cube, floating freely above the original gate, enables visualisation of the dimensions and appearance of the former Limes gate. Today the Dalkinger Gate is, together with a LIMES-border section, a LIMES-tower, a Roman bath, a civil settlement and a castell, part of the Rainau archeological park.



Picture 2 Remnants of the LIMES Dalkinger Gate before construction of the protective shelter Source: Rainau municipality (https://www.rainau.de/index.php?id=203&L=0)