

DELIVERABLE D.T1.1.2

Title Identification Pilot Sites

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PP Country Hungary

Pilot Site Százhalombatta (Matrica)

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“Matrica” Museum and Archaeological Park,
Százhalombatta

Project ID DTP3-359-2.2

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1. Basic Information on the Archaeological Site and its Location

Modern name of the site	Százhalombatta
Roman name of the site, if known	Matrica
Country, Region	Hungary HU 1 Közép-Magyarország (Central Hungarian Region), HU 12 Pest megye (Pest County)
Municipality	Százhalombatta
Type of the site (<i>e.g. fortification, settlement etc.</i>)	Fortification, Roman auxiliary fort (castellum) with vicus
Single site or multiple component site (cluster)	Single site
Dating of the Roman site	2 nd century CE
Dating of construction phases, if known	Earth-and-timber fort, 106–178 CE Stone fort, from the end of the 2 nd to the 4 th century CE
Area of the site [in ha]	Matrica castellum: app. 4 ha Vicus: app. 16 ha
Elevation of the site [in m AA] ¹	102 m
Coordinates of the site using WGS84 = EPSG:4326 (<i>if your site covers a large area, indicate a single point its centre</i>)	Százhalombatta, HU 47°44'41.49" N, 18°11'56.30" E
Cover with building structures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fully/partly covered with modern superstructures <input type="checkbox"/> not covered <p>Short description: The area is located on the Western bank of the River Danube, in a low flat floodplain of the river. On the Eastern side, a thin zone of forest separates the area from the river. On the Northwestern and Western sides, private plots are located with small houses – it partially covers the former area of the camp. On the Northern area a camping site is located with sport facilities. This area and a canal separate the territory of the former Matrica military fort from the remains of the bath. All these structures are surrounded with a dam on the north, which defends the Southern residential area of Százhalombatta consist of houses with gardens. The Southwestern part of the military vicus is partially covered with private houses, however, two major coherent territories are ploughlands where the research can be fulfilled.</p>
Site visibility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> underground remains not visible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> underground remains uncovered and visible (excavated, conserved - Roman bath) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archaeological remains above surface until today (roman bath)

¹ m AA = Meters Above the Adriatic

	<input type="checkbox"/> physical reconstructions above archaeological remains
State of research (<i>e.g. fully excavated, confirmed by geophysical surveys etc.</i>)	Archaeological excavations were partially fulfilled; however, the architectural remains were buried again, covered with green, and the underground remains therefore they are not visible.
Conservation status, if known	All the remains of the Roman fort, military vicus, the limes and the cemeteries which were excavated in 1943, 1971–75 and 1993–96 are covered with soil.
List of known remaining archaeological structures	<p>The only, unearthed, still visible archaeological structures are the remains of the Roman Bath, north to the military camp, on the eastern side of the limes. The plan of the bath is clearly visible, its walls remained with app. 0,5m – 1 m height, covered with a roof.</p> <p>All the other, previously excavated archaeological structures which are listed in 2.3 are covered with soil.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Roman Bath – Auxiliary fort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> as a part of the auxiliary fort: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ porta principalis dextra ○ principia ○ shirne (Aedes or Capitolium) ○ road ○ angle tower – military vicus – section of the limes road – Roman cemetery <p>Structures after the Roman times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 14-15th century church and cemetery – military rampart from the Napoleonic age – memorials from the 20th century
List of Roman military force stationed at the site (<i>e.g. LEGIO, COHORS, ALA</i>)	<p>It is supposed that the first troop here was the cohort I Lusitanorum from 106 succeeded by the cohort I Alpinorum equitata with 500 members in 118–119. About the second troop, two tombstones and a grave-altar with inscriptions belonging to the soldiers and officers records.</p> <p>During the great Marcomannic-Sarmatian Wars (cca 178 CE) the fort was destroyed. After the peace the troop was removed, the camp was rebuilt of stone by a cohort of 1000 persons of cohorts milliaria Maurorum, recruited in Africa.</p>
Access to the Danube in ancient times	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Access to the Danube today	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Access to a tributary river in ancient times	<input type="checkbox"/> yes

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
Access to Roman Road Network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please indicate the name of the road: Limes Road along the Danube
UNESCO status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tentative List status <input type="checkbox"/> World Heritage status <input type="checkbox"/> application process still ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> no UNESCO status
Legal protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> by national Monument Protection Law <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> by planning tools (e.g. protection of townscape, designation of areas, zoning etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> others Please list and describe:
Institutions involved in research on the site (today and in the past)	Matrica Museum and Archaeological Park, Százhalombatta Banner János Foundation of Archaeology
Institutions and stakeholders involved in the presentation of the site	Municipality of Százhalombatta Matrica Museum and Archaeological Park, Százhalombatta Banner János Foundation of Archaeology

2. Archaeological Remains

2.1. History of the Site

The area of Százhalombatta has been occupied by the Romans quite late contrary to other parts of Pannonia. The need for construction of the military camp revealed after Emperor Traianus' (98–117 CE) conquest in Dacia and the Sarmatians attacked Pannonia several times, and the land became strategic point. Therefore, an auxiliary castellum was erected around 106 CE, and became the third auxiliary castellum south of the legionary fort of Aquincum (after Nagytétény-Campona and Érd) with connection to the Danube. This auxiliary fort was an earth and timber palisade in the period of 106–179 CE. Matrica, the name of the settlement is originated from the language of the Celtic inhabitants.

Around 178 CE, during the great Marcomannic-Sarmatian wars this fort was destroyed. After the peace the camp was rebuilt from stone. The stone camp was erected on the same place with the same size where the palisaded camp was situated. It was a 155x155 m camp, the thin forth walls were strengthened from inside with 4 m wide inner earth-work and piers. These inner wall-piers were rare in Roman forts, however, in the territory of Pannonia it can also be observed in Aquincum and in the camp of Celamantia (Leányvár).

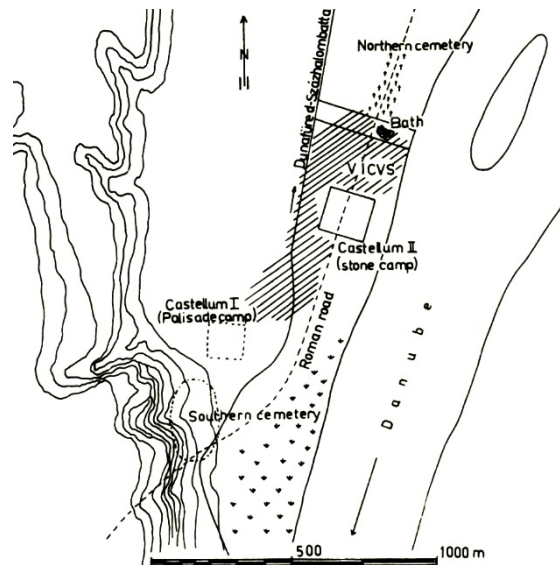


Fig 1. Matrica. Camps, settlement, cemeteries. Source: Topál 1981. p. 8.

In the surroundings of the fort, a military vicus was located. Its assumed area was app. 900x400 m. Merchants, craftsmen and relatives of the soldiers were settled here with native Celtic population even in the beginning of 3rd century (names: Adnamatia, Turuna). Under the rule of Hadrianus (110–138 CE), the settlement got its own land (territorium) governed by an organization (veterani et cives) consisting of Roman citizens with the help of elected officers. An altar stone excavated in the territory of the vicus records this fact.

2.2. Composition and Appearance of the Archaeological Site

The area of the Roman fort is located directly on the western bank of the River Danube and the southern part of the residential area of Százhalombatta called 'Dunafüred'. A long dam separates the archaeological site from the residential area, however, some weekend houses are located directly at the edges of the site.

The walls of the Roman fort stood even during the last century of the 19th century. The stones of the buildings were used by the inhabitants for various constructions. On two maps representing Batta in the 18th century the walls are signed as 'antique colonia' or ruins of an ancient castle (rudera arcis antiquae).

During the Napoleonic wars in 1809 a bridge-head was built on the territory of the camp with longitudinal ramparts.

Nowadays, only the restored remains of the roman bath are visible from the Roman bath. The other parts of the fort, military vicus, the limes and the cemeteries which were excavated in 1943, 1971–75 and 1993–96 are covered with soil. The ramparts of the Napoleonic wars are visible and still survived to a considerable height.

On the Northwestern and western sides, private plots are located with small weekend houses – it partially covers the former area of the camp. The northern neighbouring area belongs to a

camp with sport facilities. This area and a canal separate the area of the former Matrica camp from the remains of the bath. The military vicus on the Northwestern part of the camp is partially covered with private houses, however, two major coherent territories are ploughlands where the research can be carried out.

2.3. Architectural Structures

During the excavation of 1993–1996 lead by P. Kovács, several parts of the fort were unearthed and documented.

From the palisade period of the fort, the ditch, the posthole of a corner turret, the mudwalls and the stone foundations of several buildings were found. It has been identified, that the stone camp has the same localization and dimension as the palisade had. Postholes belonging to the principia and clay floor-layers of several rooms were revealed.

From the stone-walled period, in 1943 the southern (*porta principalis dextra*) and western gates (*porta decumana*) were unearthed by Á. Dormuth. In that period, semicircular corner turrets were excavated on the southeastern corner by Á. Dormuth and A. Mócsy, which are dated to the time of emperor Caracalla (211–217 CE). (Mócsy 1955.) The same was observed in the Roman fort of Nagytétény (Campona).

In 1995–96, during the research led by P. Kovács with the support of the Matrica Museum of Százhalombatta, the northwestern corner tower, the gate facing the Danube with gatehouses (*porta praetoria*) and the northern gate were revealed. In the central part of the territory, the headquarters building (*principia*) was excavated. The *principia* could be approx. 35 m wide according to the analogies. The researches also proved that similar to other camps, the *porta praetoria* was not closed but other places were walled off with a huge U-shaped tower. The researchers cut through the road around the *principia* when a 3 m wide, 25 cm thick rammed pebble road was found. The foundation of the road was similar to the *via praetoria*. A shrine (*aedes* or *Capitolium*) was be found under the Napoleonic rampart. (Kovács 1996.)

2.4. The Most Important Finds and their Message

The first group of the archaeological finds belong to the identification of the area. Besides the literary sources (see 2.6) two archaeological finds prove the identity of Matrica. The first one is a tile with *Matri(ca)* stamp. The second one is an altar from the 3rd century with the inscription of ‘*pro salute civeromanum cerrit(orii) Matricensium*’. Both objects are located at Matrica Museum of Százhalombatta.

The second group of the finds belong to the dating of the area. During the excavation of 1993–1996 several evidences were excavated which support the dating of the palisaded camp between 106–178 CE. This period is well-dated by the sherds of Samian wares (*terra sigillata*) produced in South- and Middle-Gallia. Thin-walled drinking cups with barbotine decoration also occur, which were produced in Raetia and the northern part of Italy in the beginning of 2nd century. This supports also the origin of the troops, the cohort I Lusitanorum from 106 CE succeeded by the cohort I Alpinorum equitata in 118–119 CE (Visy 1989. 89.). The evidence of

the latter troop is a grave-altar with inscriptions belonging to the soldiers and officers. (Kovács 1996. 45.)

A brick found at the gatehouses of the stone castellum with the stamp of the cohorts milliaria Maurorum proves its date and the fact that this period was built by this troop.

2.5. Surrounding Area

The most important feature of the surrounding area of the fort is that a military vicus with app. 900x400 m extension was located there. According to the excavations of 1995 led by P. Kovács, the most important architectural features were the following. During the 2nd century CE, wooden buildings and half-subterranean dwelling-pits existed there. After the Marcomannic wars, stone or mud brick buildings with stone foundations were erected. Living houses, sanctuaries, bath (balneum) and a mansio (imperial post) were located here as well as workshops and furnaces, situated at the edge of the settlement. From the former excavations, 23 buildings are known. The area close to the camp: densely populated, moving off the camp: buildings stood app. 10 m from each other along three rows. (Kovács 1996. 51–55.)

There were two cemeteries on the northern and southern side of the camp. Between 1971 and 1974 the southern cemetery of Matrica was excavated by Judit Topál. (Topál 1981.) These were cremation graves from the 2nd and 3rd centuries CE. A smaller grave group refers to the late Roman inhabitants from the 4th and 5th centuries CE.

2.6. Literary sources

The identification of Matrica is based on two sources. The first source is the Itinerarium Antonini, a Roman itinerary compiled for the emperor. According to the source, Matrica can be found XXIII Roman miles from Aquincum (It.Ant. 245,5, not.dig. occ. 33, 36). The second source is a late Roman dignity list, the Notitia Dignitatum, which records both the name of the troop and the gate of the Roman camp (not.dig.occ.33,36). (Kovács 1996. 44.)

3. Research History

The archaeological excavation of the area begun with the roman bath. It was already known and recorded by Gyula Kereskényi and Flóris Rómer in 1872. During the following year, some parts of the bath were excavated, however afterwards it was covered with soil.

The first large and comprehensive excavation was led by Á. Dormuth in 1943, when mainly the southern and western gates were unearthed. The results, however, were not published, the majority of the excavational notes, sketches and the find material have been preserved in the Székesfehérvár Museum. A. Mócsy, parallelly to a rescue excavation in 1953 in the region of the military vicus north of the camp, cleaned and sketched one of the trenches made by Dormuth, the one at the southern corner turret, and published his research in 1955. In 1962 G. Alföldy, in 1963–64 E. B. Thomas fulfilled archaeological excavations on the site.

Between 1971 and 1974 the southern cemetery of Matrica was excavated by Judit Topál (Topál 1981.). In 1973 the ruins of the bath which were excavated by K. Sági, J. Topál and A. Mócsy in 1972 received a protective roof according to the plans of Gyula Hajnóczy and Gyula Istvánfi, professors of Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Mezős 1985. 150.; Hajnóczy-Mezős 1995. 72.).

In 1993, complex and long-term excavations were started in the military fort by P. Kovács. In that period, the most important findings were the following: the Eastern, Northern gates (porta principalis dextra and porta decumana), Northwestern corner tower (porta praetoria) were revealed. The excavations of the principia begun and tombstones, grave-altars were found. In 1995, a rescue excavation, led by P. Kovács, in the territory of the military vicus was conducted. In that period, a 600 m long part of the ditch and the remains of 29 stone buildings were excavated. North to the camp, in ditch 2 (130 m) the richer, central part of the vicus with stone walled buildings (3,5-6x10-12 m with one or two rooms) were found. On the western part of the camp: outstanding, multiple-roomed building with stone foundation, decorated with stucco and fresco came to light. Also, a coin from Galerius (4th century) and a bronze plate were found. Between 1995-1996, the headquarters building (principia) of the camp was excavated. (Kovács 1996.). In 1997, Gy. Nováki fulfilled archaeological researches.

In our present day, all the aforementioned territories are covered with soil, only the remains of the bath are visible. The findings can be found at the exhibition and the archives of the Matrica Museum in Százhalombatta.

4. Considerations for Touristic Exploitation

4.1. Practical Information

Closest urban community / city	City of Százhalombatta
Ownership	40 % public 60 % private
Limits of use of or activities at the site (e.g. due to the presence of strategic complexes, factories, companies, military etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please describe.
Access to the site (<i>multiple choices possible</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> open to the public (partially) <input type="checkbox"/> controlled <input type="checkbox"/> entry fee <input type="checkbox"/> closed to the public <input type="checkbox"/> restricted (e.g. only on request, in summer time etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:
Site connected to modern road network and public transport	Road network: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Parking available: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

	<p>Public transport:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>Further connected via:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> bicycle routes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ship cruises</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> others. Please indicate:</p> <p>Please give a short itinerary: The territory is located at the Southern borders of the city of Százhalombatta, on the Western banks of the river Danube. On the north, the garden suburb of the city called 'Dunafüred' is located. On the south, the border of the city and the land of the oil refinery is located. The nearest bus stop is located app. 1,3 km from the site. There is no existing bicycle route or ship cruise directly from the area, however, on the central part of the city both bicycle routes, and ferryboat service is available. Also, there is a potential in the area for the future development of both the accessibility with bicycle or ship. There is a camping area with sports-grounds, small houses, restaurant and boat-renting facilities nearby the area, which has an available parking lot.</p>
Tourist and visitor infrastructure available	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <p>The Matrica Museum is at the centre of the city, app. 2,5 km from site. The Archaeological Park of Százhalombatta is app. 5,5 km from the site.</p>
Tourist and visitor infrastructure planned	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no</p>
If there is an entrance fee to the site, indicate prices.	

4.2. Presentation of the Site

Site visualisation, presentation and conservation on-site	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> physical reconstructions for presentation (bath)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> virtual reconstructions for presentation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> open air presentation (bath)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> protections structures for architectural remains (bath)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> museum</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> information boards</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> audio guides</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> guided tours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:</p>
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	Apart from the bath there is not any existing visualisation, presentation, conservation or information tool about the castellum on the direct site. The Matrica Museum, which institution provides detailed information about the history of the city, including the Roman times is at the centre of the city, app. 2,5 kms from site.
Service	<input type="checkbox"/> souvenir shop <input type="checkbox"/> restaurant <input type="checkbox"/> others. Please describe:
Festivals and events held on-site in the past. Please list.	none (At the Archaeological Park of Százhalombatta, several events related to the experimental archaeology, living history and reenactment are organised and will be organised in the future. Also, events were organised in the Matrica Museum, in which Roman reenactment group participated.)
Future festivals and events planned to be organised on-site. Please list.	none
Media appearance (please list past and upcoming TV/radio broadcasts, newspaper articles etc.)	none
Social media appearance	https://www.facebook.com/matricamuzeum (The website of the Museum: http://matricamuzeum.hu/)

5. Protection

Potential threats caused by nature and human	There is a potential threat of flood, since the dam is on the northern part of the area which protects the inhabited part of the city, but not the archaeological area.
Existing Cultural Property Protection (CPP) strategies and emergency plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please list and describe them: monument preservation law, archaeological protection law and local development plan
Existing cooperation with Emergency Responders (military, firefighters, civil protection etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no If yes, please list and describe them:

6. Further Practical Information

6.1. International Cooperation

EU funded projects	Matrica Museum was project partner of Iron Age Danube – Interreg DTP Project: “Monumentalized Early Iron Age Landscapes in the Danube river basin”. The Banner János Foundation of Archaeology is a project partner of Iron Age Danube Route Association.
Research projects	none
International schools / camps	none
Other types of partnership	none

6.2. Information Relevant for Further Living Danube Limes Project Activities

Possibility to berth the LDL ship at the end of the project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If no, is there a “partner site” where the LDL ship can land in 2022? Which? The LDL ship could berth at the deck of the camping area near the site. Also, it is proposed to land the ship in Esztergom – in cooperation with DANUrB+ project and Aquincum (Budapest) – in cooperation with Aquincum Museum.
Site accessibility for visitors 2020-2022	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> accessible <input type="checkbox"/> not accessible <input type="checkbox"/> not known It is suggested to visit together with the Matrica Museum and the Archaeological Park, since on the area there is not existing information material.
Site availability for public LDL events and project activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If no, is there a “partner site” where the LDL events can be hosted? Which?

7. Bibliography

7.1. Literature

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8. Remarks

The Matrica Museum of Százhalombatta has a rich exhibition on the history of the city. Therefore, the finds of the excavations of the Matrica castellum and the vicus (building fragments: cornice, ceramics, roof-coverings, altars, tools, tablewares) can be seen both at the exhibition and the archives of the Museum. These findings can be used as evidences for the possible virtual reconstruction of the site.

The city of Százhalombatta literally means "One hundred tumuli" referring to the tumulus field at the edge of the town. This feature carries back the visitors to the earliest era of the city since the plateau stretching over the River Danube was inhabited since the Early Bronze Age. In the 7th-6th centuries BC it was the eastern branch of the Hallstatt culture that appeared in the region. Significant noblemen are buried in the tumulus graveyard. The 3,5-hectare territory presently functions as an Archaeological Park that is part of the Matrica Museum. It is in this prehistoric open-air museum that a 2,700-year-old tumulus was excavated, reconstructed and opened for the visitors. The Archaeological Park of Százhalombatta was the first interactive display site presenting prehistoric monuments in Hungary established with a two-fold purpose. First, to offer visitors a personal experience of prehistoric life offering family days, craft activities and workshops. Second, the Park is simultaneously a setting for archaeological experiments where, in addition to the authentic reconstructions of prehistoric buildings, experiments are conducted using prehistoric techniques and copies of prehistoric tools and implements. (Jerem-Vasáros-Vicze 2014.)