The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

Michele Raddi
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

Authors Information
Michele Raddi, Andrea Ceccarelli
1Department of Archeology, Udayana University, Indonesia
2Independent researcher, Rome

Correspondence
Michele Raddi, Department of Archeology, Udayana University, Denpasar Bali, Jl. Raya Kampus UNUD, Bukit Jimbaran, Kuta Selatan, Badung-Bali-80361, Indonesia,
Email micheleraddi@gmail.com

Published By:
MedCrave Group LLC
February 25, 2020
The tracks of an important late Roman-Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, Province of Isernia, Molise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Abstract</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Keywords</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The intervention</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The graves description</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The wall structures</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Methodology</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Conclusion</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Acknowledgments</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Funding</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Conflicts of interest</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. References</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abstract

Archaeological investigations conducted in the province of Isernia, in the Piana del Fiume, in the municipality of Pozzilli, have undoubtedly add an important contribution to the knowledge of the regional planning of the upper Valley of the Volturno, in the period between the late Roman age and ostrogoth (493-553) and Langobard (568-774) allocation. Urgency archaeological excavation operations were conducted in two successive campaigns (November 2004-January 2005 and May-August 2006) in an area destined to the construction of a road of national interest. An area relatively unextended returned approximately 66 graves by type (fossa, cappuccina and cassone). The significance of the discovery lies in the fact that the time-span, in which are located the tombs, is that between the sixth and seventh centuries A.D. a period marked by major conflicts such as the Greek Gothic wars and the arrival of the Langobards in Italy. We have not much information about this historical period and so this discovery contributes to the knowledge of a historical period which is relatively unknown, at least regarding the subject of archaeological investigation. Moreover, this archaeological excavation contributes to clarify the aspect relative to the funerary uses at that time.

Keywords: late antiquity- early medieval archeology, funerary archeology, Molise, Italy
The intervention

The archaeological investigations carried out by the Superintendency of the archaeological heritage of Molise in the province of Isernia, at the Piana del Fiume locality and directed by the undersigned, in the municipality of Pozzilli (IS) (Figures 1&2), certainly bear an important contribution to the knowledge of the regional planning of the Alta Valle del Voltorno during the period between the late Roman Age and the ostrogothic (493-553) Lombard appropriation (568-774). The operations of urgency archaeological excavation, took place in two successive campaigns (November 2004-January 2005 and May-August 2006) in an area destined to the realization of the final section of the road variant A.N.A.S. Sesto Campania-Pozzilli (Figures 3&4), at the point where it is grafted on the old S.S. 85, precisely in the municipality of Pozzilli (IS). The survey in the area had already given evident indications of archaeological presences of a certain importance, in particular many pieces of tiles, of bricks, abundant ceramic fragments (specimens in sealed soil, in common ceramics and black paint), frame weights, dolia remains, a fine fragment of glass, late-antique bronze coins and a bronze ring, limestone mosaic tiles, pieces of white marble slabs and worked flints.¹⁻¹⁰

Figure 1 aerial view of the river’s flat area.

An area² of approximately 14x68 m was exposed during the investigation, (Figures 5–8) in which, numerous archaeological presences have been traced, both of buildings (Figure 9) and of burials. The materials collected define the area as frequented in Roman times, probably with the installation of a rustic villa, near which was then settled a necropolis in late-antiquity. The results of the research offer interesting data about a broad historical spectrum, especially about the chronological phase of late-Roman and the early Middle Age, which represents one of the most dense periods of evolution in the characteristics and settlement dynamics. Moment of pastrench between the dissolving of the roman world and the advent of the medieval age, the late Roman period is an age of, evolutions and changes that invest every aspect of life of men of that time. Political, social and cultural changes punctuate the gradual weakening of the Roman political and administrative presence and the advent of the Germanic populations, reflecting on the different characteristics found in all aspects investigated by the archaeological methodology. In fact, there are evident changes in the settlement dynamics, both in the urban centres and in the rural areas, in the characteristics of the burials and in the presence and peculiarity of the funeral kits, in the material culture and in the production, in the guidelines trade and trade in import goods, and all of this, of course, to frame the new political and social balances given by the Germanic presence in the territory. In particular, the large burial site located in Pozzilli (66 tombs) returns a large series of data (about types and funerary uses, elements of equipment, monetary diffusions, ethnic contacts, etc.), which make light on many aspects of this complex historical period.¹¹⁻¹⁵

The long-standing funerary archaeology,² for constant tradition has been a part of Christian archaeology, in the late 70 with the excavations of the funerary area of Cornus in Sardinia directed by Letizia Ermini Pani (an area connected to the episcopal basilica) received for the first time a new address for the recognition of the presence of funerary kits in autochthonous contexts and material remains of the rite of Refrigerium until at least the 8th century. In particular, the appearance of the funeral rites has been highlighted to the monetary offering, articulated on offer within the burial, and at the same time offered outside of it, during the same memorial rite. Therefore, the methodological rigour applied in the archaeological research of Cornus in Sardinia has been taken as a model for the various shipyards that in Molise⁵ have interested funeral areas. Preceded by a systematic survey of the surface area, implemented from 1995 in the province of Isernia, which has led, among other things, to the identification of a large number of villas and settlements scattered, with regard to the funeral areas, archeological investigations were carried out by the writer in Santa Maria Vecchia in the commune of Macchia di Isernia and Monteroduni “Le Socce”, Piana dell’Olmo,⁶ Colla a Voltorno and the Piana del Fiume with Pozzilli⁷ (all this locality in the Molise region). The stratigraphic sequence traced during the excavation offers a fairly clear picture of the attendance of the area. As for the geological reality in the field of excavation, it consists of a thick layer of alluvial formation, formed by compact silty soil of dark brown, mixed with minute gravel and a thick cobbled pebbles. The aforementioned sector, natural and lacking of any anthropic trace, it was traced throughout the excavation area, under a layer of light clay that, given the sinuous trend of the

¹Raddi 2006
²A special thanks to Claudio Brillante topographer for scientific support
³Pani Ermini 1990.
⁵Raddi 2002
⁶Raddi, Ricci 2008
⁷The province of Isernia from 1995 to 2000 has been the subject of topographic archaeological research of surface by the chair of Medieval Archeology Prof. Letizia Ermini Pani Sapienza University of Rome and the on-site researches were conducted by the writer
terrain and degrading from west to east, results in some points very thick (up to a metre in the deepening carried out to the southwest), in others, however, extremely thin. On top of the sequence we have a superficial layer of humus (average thickness of about 30 cm and also degraded from west to east). The oldest documented archaeological phase is represented by two circle walls traced in the test C and D (USM 42 and USM 72). In both cases, they are furnaces for the realization of lime, circular in shape, placed distant from each other, at an altitude almost corresponding (Figure 10–12). With good probability these residues are to be interpreted as what remains of production installations dating back to Roman times.⁸

Figure 2 Cartography of the Italian military geographic institute of the area (f. 161 IV S/E, 1946).

The residues masonry, probably of the same period as the klins, located in the western part of the excavation (the USM 121, 132, and 269), seem to restore the memory of a private building complex, placed on the important road artery leaving from Venafro and datable to republican age. In fact, a lot of material found during the excavation, often also reused, belongs to that period (pieces of dolia, weights from looms, fragments of marble slabs, pieces of mosaic, lumps of cocciopesto, a large threshold in local stone, limestone ashlars, fragments of amphorae-including a loop with rhodium stamp-, ceramics of domestic use, sealed italic and black glazed, bronze needles and Republican coins)⁹ and allows to assume that the nature of the building was a production plant or a rustic villa.¹⁰ These structures, located in the western part of the excavation, are connected to the burials considered to be the oldest in the area (T. 36, T. 41 and T. 63, Figures 13–15). These were terragnes burials of which, the only residues of the roof tiles survived which received only one buried with the head¹¹ to the northwest and which bear to the USM 269 copying the orientation. The simplicity of the structures, the peculiarities of burial, the presence, beside them, of fragments in (terra sigillata), the absence of any element of equipment, the distance from the area with the greatest concentration of burials and the connection with a autonomous building system, are all elements that concur to support the hypothesis of

---

⁸Raddi 2012  
⁹Raddi 2007  
¹⁰On the symbolic importance of the skulls in the reductions of the early-medieval tombs see E. Lorans, 2000, p. 246
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

The second archaeological phase is testified by walls, located in several points in the necropolis area, built in a common building technique with the same components and common orientation. All, in fact, are directed east-west or north-south, so as to suggest a non-random orthogonality and a coherent building project. To this phase can even be referred a floor residue, a wrought of lime, come to light in the western sector of the excavation. Immediately close to these structures or, however, in a strictly surrounding area, 66 burials have been brought to light, of which three T. 55, T. 61, T. 66 (Figure 16) are placed just below the aforementioned plan of attendance. The constructions, preserved only at the level of the foundation, rest on the layer of yellowish clay within which were obtained the pits for the insertion of the various graves. The disposition of burials, in almost all cases, adapts to the pre-existing masonry, leans on it or, as in the case of the body T. 6, exploits them and uses them as an integral part of the tomb structure. There is a trace of an organic wall plant that, as just said, strongly affects the burials; there is a high number of graves particularly concentrated in a very narrow area and for the most part, bounded by the aforementioned structures. The structures are all part of a clay sector, which seals an inferior alluvial geological layer. If interpreted together, these data make it possible to formulate the hypothesis of a single and organic building dynamics, a funerary building, with a long continuity of use. The articulation of the reduced building residuals allows to recognize in the aforementioned structure a small ecclesia (Figure 17), probably just to fulfill the funerary function.\footnote{Sarcina, 2004, p. 55-60}

Probably, over time, the area of the necropolis had to expand beyond the limits of the first complex. The graves are, in the majority of cases, burials of the cappuccina type in 22 cases, but also of cassone type in 17 cases and terragine in 19 cases. In 6 cases, given the poor state of preservation of the structures, it was not possible to establish with certainty what burial typology they belonged to. The substantial homogeneity of dimensions and types of burials seems to indicate a culturally fairly homogeneous environment. Depositions were a slightly larger percentage of a polysoma burial (in 29 cases), rather than monosoma (in 22 cases), but some tombs were even empty (in 2 cases); even in this case the poor preservation prevented to ascertain the number of the buried in 11 burials. Cases of reuse of a grave and reductions, are likely to be related to a family or social bond between buried individuals. In particular, the burials in which up to five deceased T. 39 were buried (Figures 18–19) testify a long sequence of reopenings and consequent reductions, indicating a probable persistence of use of the area with cemetery purposes for some generations. The possibility of opening and closing a tomb for such a long period also suggests the existence of segnacoli that indicate the position of the various tombs or of dividing and distinguishing elements of the burial sectors (as hypothesized for T. 27 and T. 28, Figures 20–22). Most of the grave structures are arranged in rows, flank each other in the east-west direction (39 cases), or north-south (21 cases), while in 4 cases (3 localized in the eastern sector of the excavation, conditioned by the masonry structures to which the graves blamed) the unusual north-west/southeast orientation was found. The deposition of individuals in primary disposition foresaw that the body was reclined, with the arms mostly crossed at the height of the pelvis (with less frequency on the abdomen or along the hips) and the legs relaxed and close together. In several cases, given the close position of the legs and, in particular, of the feet, it is possible to assume that the body had been placed wrapped in a fabric (the use of a sheet is well attested by written and iconographic sources). In most cases the head of the skeleton in connection is facing west (31 cases), to the south when the burial is oriented north-south (17 cases) and to the northwest in the four tombs directed north-west/south-east; In one case the body was deposed with the head north T. 52, Figure 23. The exact position of skeletal remains could not be established in 10 situations. Often, in the presence of multiple depositions, it was found the use of flanking the skulls of secondary gicature, to the one of the individual in connection. This custom has been explained by ties of parental type among the buried, perhaps also reiterated by the care with which the moved bones were treated. There seems to be no substantial percentage disparity in the choice to use as the depositional plan of the burials the bare soil-or rather the alluvial layer of rubble and river shingles that is the bottom of the pits in the whole area of the necropolis (31 cases), or instead opt for a tile coating (29 cases). It should also be noted that in six cases, the grave structures were overlapping, set on two successive levels, probably for reasons of space or ideological. Despite the substantial homogeneity of dimensions and characteristics found in burials, however, three specimens T. 6, t. 35 and t. 51 (Figures 24–29) stand out on the others for measurements and use of material: in all three cases it is a case of graves, in which were used (or probably reused) large ashlars of limestone in the sides or in the roof, with traces of mouldings.\footnote{21–25}
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise.

Figure 4: Aerial view of the archaeological excavation.

Figure 5: Overall view of the necropolis during the first excavation phase 2005.

Figure 6: Detail of a so-called “cappuccina” grave.

Figure 7: “Cappuccina” burial plan probably belonging to a single household.

Figure 8: Phases of the archaeological excavation.

Figure 9: Wall structure belonging to a phase relating to the establishment of a Roman villa.
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise.

Figure 10 Detail of lime kiln in evidence the rear wall that cuts the structure.

Figure 11 Detail of lime kiln in evidence the rear wall that cuts the structure.

Figure 12 Detail of another lime kiln furnace of small size.

Figure 13 Detail of the tomb 36 damaged in part by previous anthropic activities.

Figure 14 Tomb 41, detail of the burial line obtained with River Pebbles.
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

As regards the composition of the necropolis of Pozzilli, Piana del Fiume, the area was destined both to the individuals adults, and adolescents and (albeit with less frequency) to children and infants. The reference population was to be of decent size and probably the rural village inhabited by the community—not yet identified—was a short distance from the ecclesia. Most of the substantially intact burials explored during the excavation, proved to have no elements of equipment (31 cases), while in those that returned material (25 cases), it was, mostly, ritual elements (ceramic fragments and glass, referring to pottery, numerous coins and, in two cases, remnants of food). In some graves, however, the finds found were attributable to a personal type of equipment, that is, elements belonging to the deceased, connotational or ornamental (linked to the clothing or the profession of the buried, like a ring, two earrings and a Bracelet, knife blades, arrowhead, two belt buckles, an omega fibula and two pins with spherical pinhead, Figures 30−32). Waiting for a systematic study of ceramic and vitreous fragments, in fact, sufficient chronological indications have been offered by the jewellery and the weapons coming from the various graves. Three silver coins (Figures 33−34) found in t. 27 (Figure 29) and by the other abundant numismatists finds found mostly scattered just above the graves, either directly on the roof tiles, or in the filling layers of the pits for burial. Specifically with regard to the two iron finds preserved in t. 6 (Figure 35) (see above): a belt buckle (Figure 36) which appears to refer to the ring-plate ratio with byzantine specimens, and a knife (Figure 37). The earrings from the t. 28 (Figures 32, 38−40) as well as the Omega fibula from t. 60 (Figure 41), the three-lobed pitcher from t. 40 (Figures 42−46), return a dating that oscillates between VI and VII sec. a.D. Of particular importance is the documentation of the survival of the rite of refrigerium in the necropolis of Pozzilli in the tombs 18−65 (Figures 47−48). Also noteworthy is the presence, in relation to the burials, of coins deposited both inside and outside the tombs that acquire, respectively, the value of offering viaticum and offering. Usually they are late Roman coins, but sometimes even more ancient, often completely illegible. For the other specimens, late-Roman, it is probable an uninterrupted maintenance in circulation, for economic transactions at the lower level. This function has now been fundamentally accepted for the Roman bronze coin circulating in the 6th century levels and probably also for the later levels, in areas with Byzantine monetary culture, with trimetallic circulation, as in Rome or Liguria. The coins in the graves at Pozzilli would seem connected to the tradition of the “Charon’s Offering”, which is usually represented by only one or a few coins, always of low nominal value. However, the presence of the three silver specimens found in t. 27 could be a symbol of status and a means of ostentation. The intense cemetery use makes also assume the proximity of a populated nucleus of a certain magnitude and importance, whose precise location remains however still unknown. The better preserved tombs have been dug in a systematic way, this fact allows, moreover, to advance some considerations regarding the funerary ritual. In two cases, as already mentioned, in the vicinity or inside the tomb structures have been traced remains of the funeral banquet: ceramic fragments, animal bones and anthracological artifacts. Very frequently, above and beside the skeleton in connection, a large number of disjointed
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

bones, in particular skulls, were found, often placed next to the head of the last buried, and long bones, massed in the terminal portion of burial. It is therefore observed a close relationship between the deposition of a new deceased and the arrangement of already disconnected skeletons within the same structure. A phase of reuse, presumably the latest in the use of the cemetery, was hypothesized, in which the most “representative” bones (such as skulls and basins) were laid inside the crates, while smaller ones (vertebrae, hands, feet) were buried elsewhere or directly in the ground, evidently still considered as sacred area. Some, in fact, show that the individual in primary disposition, not necessarily the first to have been buried, at the time of the reuse of the tomb, was leaning against one of the walls in order to leave the space necessary to mass the bones of the pre-existing individual or those translates from another burial. This is easily explained by hypothesizing a long continuation of use of the funeral area and the reuse of a burial, probably to the death of members of the same family strain.26–30

This element, combined with the simplicity of the majority of the tomb structures and the poverty of the kit contained in them, photographs an extremely poor community, except, perhaps, for the t. 6 body which, already for the imposing measures and for the greater monumental claim of the structure, it is presumed to have belonged to an individual of particular rank, as the one buried in t. 35. Even the existence of overlapping burials indicates a prolonged continuity of funerary use, a substantial poverty of means and a articulation of the sepulchral dynamics linked, perhaps, to parental constraints. Only a detailed and desirable anthropological study, however, will be able to establish the age and causes of death of the deceased and can affirm whether the reuse of the burials confirms the hypothesis of a period of particular crisis (it should be remembered that it is an era affected by acute famines, the serious plague of 542 a.D.), or if instead the clear prevalence of skeletal remains of adult subjects, rather than children or infants, shows that the community has a good life expectancy and, in contrast, a low infant mortality rate. The site of the necropolis, in fact, is part of the area that was the scene of the raids of Goth and Ostrogoth, involved in the campaigns of the Greco-Gothic War (535-553). According to the sources written, the southern provinces, including the Samnium, Campania and the areas far from the coast of Lazio, remained free of the Ostrogoth settlements worth noting. So far, indeed, the absence of the ostrogoth tombs in the whole region south of the via Valeria (Pescara-Rome) and the correlation between the presence scarce or nothing of the ostrogoth settlements in southern Italy and the numerical presence of small garrisons – with the exception of Cuma and Naples – made it think that the ostrogoth were subordinated to the military situation. In this framework,13 the necropolis traced to Pozzilli, takes on an exceptional documentary value. The cemetery was obliterated by a layer above stage of destruction of the tombs themselves (US 5), occurred as a result of seasonal agricultural work carried out in the area until recent times, moreover, and other modern activities as the invasive placement of a water pipe along the west limit of excavation and plumbing for agricultural irrigation on the east side. These damages can explain the ruinous state of some burials, the lack of shells or fills in some of them and the impossibility, in any case, to trace the cuts for the insertion of the tombs themselves. This level of destruction was in turn covered by a thin layer of natural storage (US 2) and, ultimately, a thick field of humus (US 1) that retains the materials of the different phases of occupation of the area intermingled among them.31–35

Figure 17 Detail of the apse-shaped mural.

Figure 18 Tomb 28 deposition plan.

13A special thanks to my student Barirotul Ruwaida in Malang for the work of layout of this article.
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

The graves description

Grave 1

The first burial t. 1 was detected in the western sector of the trench c. It has the size of 1.60 m x 0.70 m and is oriented north-south. The structure has been heavily affected by said work, so much so that at the time of the excavation was preserved the only level of deposition made with large brick tiles placed on top. The tomb was made affecting a sector composed of dense medium and small river pebbles (US 234), tracked in most cases below the tomb or, as here, cut by them. It is a geological layer that extends, with sinuous and irregular, over the area of excavation and that, in the field of burials, is covered by a compact field of yellowish clay that "seals" the necropolis (US 32). Given the
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

destruction of the other components of the structure of the Tomb, you can only surmise that t. 1 was, as found in the majority of cases, *cappuccina* type. Above the lower lining were remnants, very fragmentary, of an individual (see skeleton t. 1). The tomb has not kept elements of the kit.

---

**Figure 24** Tomb 6 which uses pre-existing Needmore masonry and reusable stone material.

**Figure 26** Tomb 35 before and after the archaeological excavation.

**Figure 27** Tomb 51 particular consisting of large blocks of limestone.

---

**Grave 2**

Located in the central sector of the trench C, the second tomb, *cappuccina* type, is oriented east-west and is partially marred by modern works several times mentioned (bone fragments were found on the roof tiles of cover US 37). The burial returns below the roof, completely preserved skeleton, probably female, laid in primary position, with the head west. On these, you are tracked other bones bumpy secondary position, relevant to at least one arranged individual and arranged, with the exception of the skull that
is attached to the skull buried in connection, mostly at the bottom the first skeleton (left femur, tibia, femur, humerus, humerus fracture, left, right, right and ileum radio right tibia). The bones were based directly on a ground plane. It has been possible to locate the cut (US 28) run to enter the tomb itself within a layer of yellowish clay soil mixed with numerous small river pebbles (US 32). This stratigraphic unit was found in a rather uniform over the entire area investigated, cut for the deposition of most graves traced. The excavation of t. 2 did not return items of kit.

The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in Central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

Grave 3

Located south of t. 2 has been traced to another burial nearly upset t. 3), of which only part of the lower lining, consisting of pieces of roof tiles well aligned from east to west (US 17). Perched above the horizontal plane only reduced residues preserved skeleton depositional a buried (little fragments of the lower limbs, and 6 teeth) deposed likely connection, in primary position, with the Head west. The burial was leaned to a wall structure also oriented in an east-west direction (USM 8), obviously the trend that follows the existing Tomb itself. The absence of bone remains referable to other individuals, may indicate that the burial remains were accepted only one buried, but the poor condition of the structure does not allow to be sure.

Grave 4

Located along the western side of the wall USM 8 and also conditioned by its performance, the burial t. 4 is oriented in an east-west direction. Tomb structure remains prominently displayed an array of brick and limestone chooses pieces that define its eastern side, while the rest of the elements is completely disjointed. On the lower floor, consisting of residues of tiles fratte (US 26), they kept skull fragments referable to a damaged spot on the western edge of the burial, of which one can distinguish between part of the jaw and at least 3 teeth (see file skeleton t. 4, individual). The
bones recovered under the scant remnants of upper lining tiles (US 82) have made it possible to rebuild the Tomb. T. 4 had to accommodate (at least in its final stages) two individuals, probably buried simultaneously in primary position, with the lower limbs, the only preserved in good condition (from the waist down), lying side by side. The bodies of the buried were laid directly on the ground to fill the lime kiln (US 98). The structure, kept on the side adjacent to the USM 8, an alignment of bricks, which leads to believe that it was a tomb, a tomb destined to more buried. Bone excision has made it clear that, while the lower parts of the two skeletons were laid on the ground that fill USM 42, the upper ones were based instead on the layer of crushed stone US 234 (layer that lies outside the all USM 42). The difference in composition of the soil into two USS and, above all, a significant elevation change of plan, have impacted on the conservation status of the parts of the two skeletons. While the lower zone (a dock, both sets of femurs and tibias), discovered at a slightly lower elevation, was well preserved; the upper (cranial caps, elements of the ribcage, teeth, jaws, etc.) was heavily damaged (US 26, relevant to the individual; US 81, relevant to the individual B). The excavation of this burial revealed a state of considerable complexity: the wall that it shall bear standing was built on an earlier circular structure in malta and pebbles; It is a lime kiln (USM 42), which will be discussed extensively in the section on masonry structures. Once extinct its original function, the firing chamber of the lime kiln was filled with big pebbles and soil from the distinctive red colour conferred by prolonged exposure to high temperatures. Such coverage is then served as a table top for burials t. 4, t.5 and t. 22 (those that are along the west and east side of the structure USM 8).
Grave 5

Immediately east of t. 3, always behind the 8, along the eastern flank of the same USM, was detected another burial (t. 5), partially eroded by modern activities. During the excavation of the structure were numerous fragments of glass, ceramics and numismatic specimens. Reason: many fragments of a glass cup of fine workmanship, due to a late antique age and dated type found in other tombs of the area concerned; fragments of common pottery and several bronze coins of late roman type. The burial is configured as a double structure *cappuccina* type, in the sense that overlap two gabled roof levels. The first layer of tile preserved in crest, at the point of junction, remnants of roman and lumps of clay and lime mortar, acts to protect internal levels from infiltration of soil and mud. Below this are brought to light numerous bones bumpy attributable to more than one individual, laid in a secondary position, massed along the southern flank of the tomb, placed directly on the second level of cover. Under the latter it was discovered the skeleton in primary position of an individual placed supine, with the head west, arms at sides and legs outstretched. Missing the end of the lower limbs (the femur), excised as the whole southern portion of burial during recent activity, which led to the creation of a concrete lintels right next to t. 5 and structures that alongside. The burial is played by a floor tiled depositional that rested directly on the filling of the existing furnace and no longer in use (USM 42) consisting of reddish soil, coal and river pebbles of medium and large sizes. Most likely, at the time of deposition of the buried found in connection, the bones become disarticulated of the oldest occupants of the tomb itself, or transferred from other tombs, were placed over the cover (and not as in most often attested in the necropolis of Pozzilli, inside, placed next to or above the body in primary position). Less likely pare the hypothesis of the transfer of the bumpy bones at a later time and distinct from that of the underlying glass. Lower lining of side t. 5 bronze coin was discovered a little that he held up perfectly readable on one side the monogram V, symbol of pentanummo, about whom it is worth to make some considerations. As a result of the gradual devaluation of the *follis o nummus* (plural *folles-folles-folles* in latin, was introduced by the reform of Diocletian in 294 as bronze coin. His weight was 10 grams and contained a surface layer of silver that was about 4%, as far as the name, follis pointed to a bag, allegedly containing a set amount of money. Despite attempts to block the most common commodity prices through the Diocletian’s edict on maximum prices of 301, the follis continued to depreciate heavily. With the reform of Constantine the weight of follis was reduced initially to 3.41 g and then to 1, 70 g, with increasingly negligible amounts of silver), this was replaced by the 346 nummus centenionalis (lat. *Centenionalis*): even if the value of this coin is not certain, the name “centenionalis “ you’d think it would be a penny of siliqua or miliareion. With the monetary reform of constant and Constantius II, then, was introduced to *Pecunia Maiorina (Maiorina)* to replace follis now devalued to 1.35 grams. The nummus was reintroduced by the reform of Anastasius in 498. With a diameter of about 8-10 mm, was extremely awkward to use because it required a high number even for small trade for which the real coins was given as multiples of this coin, as the coins from 40, 20, 10 and, as in our case, 5 nummi. On the straight of the coin was depicted a stylized image of the Emperor, while the reverse showed the value of the currency according to the greek numbering system (M=40, K=10, E=5, I=20). The value of 40 nummi, was referred to as follis. A coin of Athalaric, issued under his regency on
the Goth\textsuperscript{14} between 526 and 534 a.D., was found near the limit south of trench C, in the removal of the surface layer US 1; a third was found inside the Tomb, drop-t. 13. Given the location of the find the coin, however, it is not possible to determine if it was pertinent to the remains of the first or second level of burial.


---

**Grave 6**

Just northeast of a compound wall (USM 9) that affects the orientation, it is located a burial t. (6) directed almost perfectly in north south direction. It, unlike most graves unsoiled, falls within the category of graves at checkout. In fact, t. 6 appears bounded along the long sides by two solid stone edges; the short sides, instead, simply take advantage of the big beams \textit{fratti} and arranged vertically. No trace
remains of the top panel, probably excised during modern positioning of water intervention which runs immediately north of the structure and the intense agricultural activity carried out in the area. The body uses as its western limit, what remains of the wall structure USM 9, built in large irregular river stones linked by abundant clay and lime mortar. The wall runs in the same direction as the northwest section of another compound walls located in the area of burials: the USM 6, equal to components and construction technique, tracked roughly in the middle of the essay C. The arrangement of numerous tombs is conditioned by the orientation of these and other masonry structures found in the excavation area, which are, by necessity, prior to the installation of the late antique necropolis. On the side that leans t. 6, the wall is lined, bottom, 9 from USM pieces of roof tiles fratte arranged vertically. The eastern edge of the tank, instead, consists of two long blocks of limestone (typically around 1 m 0.20 m wide); the ashlars are roughly squared and smoothed on the inner surface; the south also kept, about half length, a slight shaping falling on the inside, while externally showed a square profile socket, likely point to a joint or joint with other building elements. For these items it was assumed a reuse from previous structures. The filling of the burial (US 27), was found to be composed of dark brown clay loam, moderately compact consistency and mixed with minute river pebbles, coal, brick fragments, small lumps of lime, bone remains scattered, pieces of glass (including small handle ),common black glazed pottery pieces and two pieces of white limestone mosaic. Depletion of the body showed that it was used for a deposition bisoma, as indicated by the presence of two side-by-side cranial caps and located on the south end of the tomb. You can recognize two different individuals: the skeleton two (US 56) has preserved the bones in connection, in primary position; this indicates that the buried was lying in a supine position, directed north/south, with folded arms just above the pelvis and legs outstretched and side by side. Of the individual B (US 61) remained the skull, jaw and numerous bones (whole or fragmentary) piled up in the northern sector of the burial and scattered along the sides of the individual in connection (secondary location). In addition to the bones, then, the filling of the tank returned other important finds: a small bronze coin; a little dagger in iron and a belt buckle, which is also made of iron. The currency is already tracked down at many of the graves investigated the area, reminding all to late ancient coinage and, in particular, are comparing the Langobard burials. The buckle and the sax, also are the connotative of individuals so at least one of the people buried in the truck, had to be a man. The position of the bones allows us to reconstruct the sequence of deposition of two individuals: the first user of the tomb must probably have been the individual B, whose bones already disarticulated, and then only several years later, were moved and piled pell-mell beside the body of a newly deceased, the individual is known as the first generation of germanic tribes arrived in Italy. It was the custom to bury the dead with the traditional garment, which provided for men a belt with buckle at waist height, which was hanging on sax. The location of iron artifacts of t. 6, therefore, it seems more likely connected to the remains of the individual B. The imposing size of the structure of the tomb so far described (2.40 m longx0.70 m wide) and major monumental pretensions, in comparison to all other burials in the sector under investigation, suggest that the rank of the first deceased intended the caisson, was of some particular significance within the community who used the sepulchral function area. This hypothesis is confirmed by the presence of the elements of iron kit, however modest, were found with very low incidence throughout the necropolis and denote also a desire to connote symbolically a specific social status of deceased (another element that supports the hypothesis that the remains belonged to the individual B, that is, the original user of t. 6). Afterwards, the reuse of the tank for a second burial should be seen in a context of humble means chronic or of a period of great emergency (as in the case of an epidemic), such as to necessitate reopening and exploitation of graves precedents already in use, while respecting and preserving the remains of the first deceased. Beneath the bones of individuals A and B has been preserved a depositional plan perfectly intact (US 55), declining significantly from west to east, and consists of three big big tile bricks, cracked in several places, with side flaps facing upwards. The central tile retains an incised decoration, characterized by four small furrows that, two by two, converge at the northern limit of the tile itself.

**Tomb 7**

In the immediate vicinity of the eastern shore of the case t. 6, of which follows the north-south direction, was found the burial t. 7, in fairly good condition. Four bronze coins were found inside the ditch fill or near the upper lining of the Tomb; one of these, in particular, appears to be a nummus dated to 335-337 A.D. The obverse bears the bust of Dalmazio 335-337, draped and cuirassed graduate imperial facing right. Inside out was to bring back the legend, now barely visible, GLOR-IA EXERC-ITVS; the title page which was to bear the mint mark does not read. There are represented two soldiers, placed in front of the other, Earl and in military clothing, holding an auction each and rely on a shield; among them are a labarum (banner, emblem of Constantine). The type of Gloria Exercitus begins with Constantine the great in 330 and continues with the children. A second exhibit bronze coin can be identified with a nummus with inside out the Monogram oNsE, typical of coinage issued under the reign of Athalaric, or rather of
Leo I and dated between 457 and 474. Inside the Tomb were the bones of an individual in connection, in primary position, supine, with the head placed south, arms folded on the pelvis, legs outstretched. At first it was a second skull and a few scattered bones and badly reduced, as those of the whole skeleton, collapsed under the weight of the Tomb cover. Among the human remains are two personal items: a small diamond-tip iron arrow spire and a fragment of tip of knife blade always in iron, located next to the upper portion of the torso. These elements tend to connote the deceased by male symbols related to the military sphere-war. The lower lining was made with the usual big tile arranged at level.

Grave 8

Another burial, probably of the cappuccina or pit type with flat cover tiles, how could indicate the few north-side residue that serve as side, has emerged in the central area of the necropolis, also heavily damaged by invasive modern works cited multiple times. T. 8 is oriented in an east-west direction and only disjointed clamshell residues in tiles as well as bone remains of an individual in the primary position, unfortunately heavily compromised by heavy damage undergone by the structure. The body buried was placed in supine position, with your legs stretched and folded arms just above the pelvis, with nothing, resting directly on the ground. On the northern side the burial leans on a short stretch of small river pebbles thickly pushed together. This area, maybe remnant of a crawl space floor, or rather a narrow walkway, or dividing element between different areas of burial of the dead city, ran for a short distance to the north west/south-east. The tomb was placed within a cut (US -15), housed in the usual yellowish clay bench (US 32).

Grave 9

The burial t. 9 was found immediately east of the wall USM 6, in front of a concrete sump made recently for a big water pipe. It has been preserved almost completely intact, perfectly oriented in a north-south direction, aligning the structure that joins the northernmost segment of the USM 6 (wall which, after a short stretch in north-south direction, fold of 90° and runs for a short portion in east-west direction). Based on the orientation of this fragment and the presence, in the southeast of the necropolis of another wall structure (USM 19), also directed east-west and part of the same building, it is considered likely that the two walls limiting an environment of a building structure existing at the plant in the necropolis (perhaps a villa rustica or big roman funerary monument). The supposition was supported by the finding of two residues referable to a mosaic flooring with white limestone tiles (and numerous limestone ashlars of reuse). Both were traced in the area between these wall fragments, a repurposed vertically like west bank burial t.
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

19; the other found among abundant pieces of roof tiles to a burial probably upset relevant fratte. The tomb 9 was like almost all others, posted by a cut made in clay and US 32. The structure consists of a depositional plan in large tiles, on which lies the skeleton of a single individual (given the reduced stature probably a teenager), buried in primary deposition, supine, with head south-facing arms folded over the pelvis and legs splayed (missing the northern portion of both the Tomb structure that the skeleton). The coverage is always accomplished by wing inclined roof tiles so as to realize a sort of double sloping protected, in the joints, using tiles. Overall the burial remains in decent condition, although evident traces of the modern infringement on the ridge of the roof. Elements of the funeral can be recognized in many relevant fragments to a glassy cup, of the same type already found in other tombs, and in three small bronze coins of type late Roman.

Figure 45 Tomb 40, detail of the horizontal and vertical lines engraved.

Figure 46 Tomb 40, detail of the lip.

Figure 47 Tomb 18 "cappuccina".

Figure 49 Tomb 65.

Grave 10

To the south-east of the Tomb t. 9 and transverse to it there is another grave, named t. 10. It is perfectly oriented, as the portion of walls of USM 6 that approaches, from east to west. Despite the poor state of conservation, the collapse of the roof tiles and the disconnection of the depositional plan, it is clear that also in this case it was a cappuccina. Inside it preserves the bones of a single individual buried, placed in the primary position with the head facing west and limbs lying; nothing can be obtained instead on the position of the arms, given the gap in this portion. The burial has a length of about 0.50mx 1.90m wide and during his excavation was not found any element of the kit.
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise.

Figure 49 General plan of Necropolis.

Grave 11
Once oriented in an east-west direction, the burial was discovered at the northern wall USM 19, in the eastern sector of the necropolis. The structure has been deeply shocked by the modern works that, in this area of trench, were particularly invasive (witnessed by a modern concrete lintel which cut the wall 8 USM and t. 5 and another concrete block found in the middle of the river stones of the wall USM 19). Probably the burial box, type given the survival of the remains of two parallel rows of river stones, which were the tatty skeletal debris of an individual in the primary position, supine, with the head west, and numerous bones bumpy crammed into mostly secondary position at the legs of the first buried. In this same sector there are only some fragments of the roof tiles. The human remains were placed directly on the ground, resting on the usual layer of crushed stone that can be found under all the burials. No item was found not supplied, if not the fragment of a small bronze coin of late antique age of the type already exists in more cases.

Grave 12
Tracked just south of already described t. 2, to which it shall bear and which follows guidance and typology, the burial has been preserved only for bottom half, heavily damaged by repeatedly cited modern jobs. Of the original structure, directed east-west has survived only part of cover made of brick and gabled roof, under, few residues relevant skeletal probably lower limbs of an individual in the primary position, that emerged remains disjointed. The facility was devoid of depositional plan so that the bones were based directly on the ground. Even the burial pit t. 12 was accomplished within the compact yellowish clay bench (US 32) in which it is located the necropolis.

Grave 13
The tomb 13, enclosure brick type, was localized near the southwest limit of masonry structure US 9, oriented transverse to it almost perfectly USM, from east to west. The upper lining was created by a plan of large tiles, tiles to protect the joints between those and lumps of clay mortar to seal the whole thing. Near the western boundary of t. 13 was brought to light a wide strip of white lime, which signaled the industry concerned by modern works by placing a water line. Fortunately the said work have not dented, or damaged the property of t. 13 which, indeed, offers one of the best examples of archaeological data integrity throughout the burial area. Easily cut boundaries were also traced to the pit,
operated by the abandonment of earlier Roman structures and consisting of light brown Soil, mixed with brick debris, small river stones and fragments ceramics. Above the roof tiles of the box of t. 13, were found two small bronze coin, of the kind already described and dated to the middle of the sixth century. a.D. The side rails on the long sides of t. 13 are made from two thin walls composed of brick, limestone blocks squared bricks and river stones roughly shaped; the walls also preserve traces of a thin coating in opus signinum (lime powder, mixed with a coarse crumbs brick), smoothed surface. The filling of the tank, in addition to the soft, dark brown ground and mixed with small stones, her over time by interstices, shows abundant coal residue, human bone fragments scattered, a small piece of glass, a few ceramic pieces common and black paint, lumps of lime and a bronze coin with the monogram V on one side (see above), a sign of Athalaric’s coinage. The emptying of the burial has revealed the presence of three individuals (polysome burial), with cephalic elevation through a tile. Three-side cranial caps have been identified in the western sector of the burial, placed at approximately the same elevation. Only one of the skulls turned connected with the rest of the bones of the skeleton (primary location), although slightly tilted on the bust. It is the individual’s body, lying on your back, arms crossed at the chest, side and vertebral column almost intact, the legs stretched out and feet joined. The type of gears, the small size of the basin and the measures of the bones lead us to believe that the body belonged to a person in adolescence. As regards the other buried, has identified an individual B, to which belonged the skullcap placed further west, apparently kept disconnected; and the buried C, which has preserved the skull overturned upside down and cracked in several places. The individual C is to connect even the jaw resting on the side of the individual, while the rest of the bones of the deceased B and C (secondary positions) are conserved piled pell-mell on the legs of the individual. Based on measurements of the bones seems plausible that it was two adults. Nothing, however, could not speculate about the sex of the three buried, given the total absence of original elements that provide guidance in this regard. The depositional plan consists of the usual big tile bricks, arranged so that the wings went to coincide with the borders of burial (in the eastern sector, the tiles show a pale yellow, a sign of a different degree of cooking or ceramic mixture). As already seen in the t.6 capuccina, also in t.13 are the long sides to take advantage of greater complexity and durability, while, to demarcation of the short, simple tiles were laid. The removal of the bones bumpy and massed over those of the individual to, allowed to see that, as already guessed at a first analysis, they are enough to reconstruct the skeletons of two burials; In addition, there were none at the vertebrae and ribs. This has led to the assumption of a later phase of reusing graves, testified in several cases by the presence of several disarticulated bones and the lack, in many cases, part of the shell. For this stage, presumably the later use of the cemetery, an educated guess might be that the bones more “representative” (like skulls and docks) were laid inside crates, while smaller ones (vertebrae, hands, feet) they were buried directly into the ground, evidently still regarded as sacred area. In any case, almost all the graves, show that the individual primary position, not necessarily the first to have been buried at the time of the reuse of the tomb, was leans against one of the walls in order to leave the necessary space to mass or bones of the pre-existing individual or those translated from another burial. The reuse of burial as a kind of charnel-house, would seem to confirm the hypothesis of a period of great crisis, when an urgent need of graves, tied to a high mortality rate, would justify shifts or piled up in one side of the grave, or that which of them remains. It’s the idea that, as the individual to a teenager, when he died, or shortly after, they were joined in the grave the bodies of deceased persons for some time now and, probably, a few of kinship. Moreover, the reconstruction of a context characterized by a particular spike in mortality, apparently supported by numerous coins found above and inside the various burials in the area concerned: all lead back to a dating late roman, in most cases further limited to the years of reign of Athalaric over the goth. This helps to contextualize the period of use of the sepulchral area around the middle of the sixth century. a.D..

Grave 14

Kept in poor condition because of the damage depend on modern interventions already described above, which affected the east sector of the trench C, the presence of a burial t. 14 had reported the survival of depositional plan in large brick tiles (US 77). This is enough, however, to recognize the orientation of the east-west structure,14 tomb was located immediately southeast of the already described t. 4 and follows, like that, the wall alignment USM 8, along which it is located. Given the poor state of conservation is not preserved even traces of bone remains that originally were to have been deposited on the glass tiles.

Grave 15

Located in the western sector of the area of the necropolis, the t. 15 falls into the capuccina type and is geared, as t. 1 east, and t. 16 west, north-south. The burial was, moreover, at the southern limit of a long line of burials (from north: t. 56, t. 27, t. 20 but has transverse orientation, and T. 15) and showed the crest of the roof tiles injured because of superfluous levels of cover modern infringement. In coverage of the cut to the ditch they found fragments of common pottery and ceramic pieces, thin wall. Within the burial were laid the bones of two individuals (skulls are flanked on the south side), only one of which in connection. The skeleton in primary position was laid on his back, arms at your sides and legs outstretched; the upper torso rested on a big river stone was for this slightly raised. On top of this individual were crammed bumpy second bones buried. The remains of the deceased were severely squeezed under the momentum created by the soil ditch fill on the cover tiles. The tomb was devoid of depositional plan, so the skeletal remains were laid directly on the floor, above the layer of small pebbles and gravel which is traced under the entire necropolis.
Grave 16
Of the same type and orientation of t15. t. 16, burial, which is flanked on the east side, differs from the previous to the presence of a double row of small to medium sized river stones, standing on the sides of the structure in order to strengthen the gabled roof covering. On the western flank the spin stops about half the length of the tomb and evidently was intended to counteract the thrust of the ground on beams and to prevent or minimize slippage of the same and the consequent collapse on burials. In coverage of the pit was found with a small rim decorated ceramic container in narrow bands and fragments of charcoal. The floor beams, lay the bones of depositional in at least four individuals. Although partly fragmentary, we clearly distinguish four cranial caps: two, including one of the only skeleton in connection, located on the south end, and the remaining two above the ankles and the feet of the said deceased. The body of the subject placed in the primary position was placed on his back, arms at your sides and legs outstretched. Also in this case the bones bumpy massed are not sufficient to reconstruct three whole skeletons, supporting the hypothesis (already exposed above, T. 6) it was customary in the community of funerary use, translate what remained of the bodies from the most ancient burials. Within t. 16 were not found elements of funeral equipment.

Grave 17
The Tomb structure t. 17 proposed the type of case in masonry, almost elliptical with a short rounded side (west) and the other (east), to which the long sides you taper, straight (the profile resembles a sarcophagus). The burial was oriented in an east-west direction and reached the 1.80 m length; the sides are made up of tiers irregular-shaped bricks and small parts, bound with lime. For technical features, dimensions and type, this tomb structure is closely related to the three contiguous t. 26, t. 43 t. 30 t. 31 (and maybe even for the next t.43 and t. 44, greatly damaged), much to represent the real "terraced tombs ". They are obviously the result of a town planning scheme, since we share with each other a side rail. In all four was missing completely or nearly so (ago partly t.30) the cover of the tomb, a sign, perhaps, of looting that took place at an unspecified date, probably at the time of the supposed reuse of the necropolis, (which would be report the numerous translations or repeatedly excavated burials) witness mentioned affect modern. The depositional plan is substantially identical, consisting of three beams arranged for piano, with fins facing upwards and with curvilinear grooves carved decorations. The excavation of the filling of t. 17 returned only a few fragments of common pottery and a bronze coin of the kind already mentioned. The total absence of any bone fragment in filling and, instead, the discovery of the find numismatic type late roman, could be explained by the aforementioned translation activity of bodies from the oldest burials in other more recent. In this case, t. 17, as his counterpart t. 26, would represent a grave emptied by the first occupants to make it available to new burials; or the case and her neighbor were under construction, when the task of burial in the area was abruptly interrupted for reasons unknown to us, but this hypothesis seems more remote.

Grave 18
Located in the northeast area of the necropolis, in front of a modern concrete pit, grave 18 is placed immediately west of the four graves in masonry case willing "to host" (the above mentioned t. 17, t. 26, t. 30 and t. 31), with which it shares the east-west direction, but not the type being a cappuccina tomb. Between the tiles of cover has found a bronze coin, late roman type. Inside, set back on a land elevation, rested the bones very badly preserved of two individuals, one of which is only in connection. The individual primary position was laid on his back, with legs stretched out and facing east. Right where he was supposed to be the skull, it is a small circular pit, reported on the surface by a conglomeration of pebbles, lumps of lime and pieces of roof tiles fratte. The excavation of this area revealed cutting it down to a depth of about 60 cm, taken within the layer of clay first and geological gravel then, and returned fragments of charcoal, glass, marble, ceramics common scales traces of burning, a sheep, a few funny bones of microfauna and two other coins in bronze. In one of the coins seems to recognize part of the monogram RsмE, referring to the coins of Athalaric or nummus of Libius Severus, the mint of Rome, dated to between 461 and 465 ad. Given the characteristics of the pit, the exhibits in it and of its location, it is considered possible that testifies the refrigerium celebration area, namely the pagan ritual to dine near the tomb and to drip inside the grave, the deceased. At the opposite end of the burial, as well as the Terminal east, in fact, it showed a small piece of land of circular profile, characterized by typical reddish layers are subjected to high heat. Also suggests a few cooking activities located directly near the tomb and possibly linked to the funeral ritual and, in particular, refrigerium.

Grave 19
Just south-east of the t. 10, opposite the concrete shaft, was found a burial that follows an east-west alignment. The presence of a burial structure was marked by a tile floor (a whole, even if cracked, and several pieces fratti), identifiable as the depositional layer of a cappuccina tomb. Along the northeast limit of the lower lining preserved fragments of tiles placed vertically: probably what was left of the roof gable of the burial itself. The northwest side was bordered by a piece of mosaic place vertically, evidently reused. The find consisted of a layer of entrapment in lime mortar, with long white limestone tiles still inserted above a square base. Such reuse does not give indications about the position or level of elevation where you found the mosaic flooring that belonged in its original location, but it offers one more element to confirm the existence of roman structures in place that was later chosen for the sepulchral settlement in late roman time. The two neighbouring walls USM 6 and USM 19, due to the supposed phase of the
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

republican age, seem, in effect, to delimit the sides of room. This, added to the fact that not far from the piece of mosaic reused in t. 19, had already found another small remnant of the same type, suggests that the mosaic floor could possibly be located precisely in the boxed area from structures building codes. The poor condition of the tomb (no cover, filling and depositional plan too is partial), clearly indicates that the area has been deeply eroded at the recent works of implant placement water already many times remembered and here also witnessed the discovery of modern construction material. In these activities is also a total absence of skeletal remains of the individual or the individuals buried within t. 19.

Grave 20

Burial placed immediately between t. 6 (cappuccina) and t. 7 (cappuccina), at right corner to both oriented east-west. This is a hole in the ground covered with tiles arranged for piano. In coverage, along with a few fragments of charcoal and ash, was deposed the skeleton of a teenager in primary, supine position, his arms crossed on his chest, legs outstretched and with the head place in the west. Beside the burial has traced a bronze coin very worn and unreadable, with a small cross in the center of the reverse: a nummus\(^{16}\) maybe of Arcadius (383-408), but the presence of the small cross could even be traced back to a nummus issued by Theodosius II, son of arcadius, between 408 and 419\(^{17}\) a.D.. The tomb was excavated in the layer of pebbles and gravel repeatedly tracked down on the bottom of the burials and that too in t. 20 serves as a supporting surface for the body of the buried.

Grave 21

Squeezed between the Tomb chest t. 6 and la cappuccina t. 7 sides and bounded on the south by the pit t. 20, grave number 21 was revealed as an irregular burial-ossuary heavily damaged, north-south oriented. The facility was reported by an alignment of pebbles and pieces of tiles, on the eastern shore of the dumper t. 6, until around the middle of this, and a second alignment, parallel to the first, which proceeded on the other side. This leads us to believe that it could be a tomb or ossuary masonry enclosure. The filling has indeed returned disjointed and sporadic bone fragments, including a skull, located at the southern end, and very small ribs, probably an individual childhood, tracked just south but at a slightly higher altitude. The most likely hypothesis is that residual dislocation is due to a recent decrease in skeletal or crushing of the little grave, at the urging of nearby structures. The remains were based on the usual geological layer in gravel and pebbles of river.

Grave 22

The Tomb 22 turned out as a scenario in which was the damage caused by modern works, occurred on the south side of the area of the necropolis and often remembered. Here, in fact, on the sidelines of a deep cliff, they found several casting or even remarkable size modern concrete residues, witnesses of the likely positioning of channels for agricultural irrigation. The grave is located near the aforementioned escarpment and leans on the southern end of the USM 8, moving on this in east-west direction. Of the original structure, presumably a cappuccina, survived only part of deposition, indicated by the remains of two beams arranged for piano. Nothing remains, instead, burials and cover inside. The plan was based on the reddish soil depositional filling calcara USM 42.

Grave 23

Located in the central portion of the necropolis, at the southern end, the burial t. 23 is also very poorly preserved. There were remnants of the two side walls composed of medium to large river cobbles aligned to demarcate the long sides of the structure. Had to be a likelihood of a cash-type tomb in masonry or, more likely, a pit; slightly inclined towards the northwest/southeast, marred recently or robbed in the past. Within the thin residue of minimum residue were found loose bone filling, while the bottom of the burial is enshrined in the usual layer of gravel and pebbles of small river.

Grave 24

Reported from what remained of the roof gable, the cappuccina t. 24 was the first traced to the five burials (t. 24, t. 27, t. 28, t. 32, t.33) heavily affected by work for the placement of a large water line processing roughly parallel to Interstate 85 and which is located in the northern portion of the area of the necropolis. The tomb was located immediately north of the case t. 6, which is supported by the terminal south and follows the north-south orientation dictated by the performance of wall USM 9. In particular, t. 24 is the one to have reported the most damage because of said work, who have sharply cut well over the half. What was left, however, highlighted the existence of a double upper lining; below the first, fragmentary, they found skeletal remains linked to at least two individuals (a shank and fragments of basin on the east side, two shins on the west side), which were based directly on roofing beams of the oldest cappuccina. Within this there are two fragmentary skulls, lying next to that of the individual who died in childhood and laid in connection, in the primary position. His little skeleton was preserved intact until roughly basin, placed on his back, his arms stretched out to his sides and head southwards. The bones were laid on a floor tiled depositional. At the north end, on the other side of the cut for the conduct, where the grave was supposed to end, have found the remains of a pelvis and lower limbs and the original terminal placed vertically: evidently the original terminal of the burial. In filling survivor found some bits of very thin and dark glass and fragments of common pottery. Based on the data you can imagine that over the first covering was leaning against a second, perhaps to move the bones of deceased individuals have

\(^{16}\)Ladich 1990, TAV. IV n°52

\(^{17}\)In “Catalogue of Late Roman coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection, from Arcadius
long and linked by family ties and therefore, intentionally brought together in one place, as already testified in t. 5.

**Grave 25**

Located southwest of USM 8, not far from this, the tomb t. 25 was bounded on the east side, from an array of river stones and tiles fratte. Despite the absence of any delimitation on the opposite side and coverage, it is likely that in this case it was a pit structure oriented east-west. The battered bone residue showed that inside there was deposed one individual in the primary position, with the feet facing east; the skeleton is incomplete as of the third vertebra. Here have been found some slag which, together with the poor condition of the structure of the Tomb, induce to believe that the same has been heavily damaged in modern times, maybe during work in southern portion of the necropolis and already mentioned. The bones were based directly on the layer of gravel and pebbles to minute River.

**Grave 26**

The burial of the masonry enclosure type number 26 was located immediately to the north of the already described t. 17, with whom he shared the east-west direction and one of the long sides, made of pieces of bricks arranged in overlapping rows and bound by lime. In fact, t. 26 was part of the already described “terraced tombs”: namely four burials in crate next to each other, sharing the same structure type, same material, same size and orientation. In all four cases, moreover, was totally absent coverage of sepulchral structure, probably excised during recent works. From the excavation of the fill the crate was, as has already happened in t. 17, completely devoid of bone remains, as I have found fragments of glass mosaic tiles, limestone, coal fragments, a piece of marble slab and an iron nail. The lower lining consists, as in other cases, three beams with curved lines engraved.

**Grave 27**

Anorth of t. 7 and east of already described t. 24, also the Tomb 27 was cut drastically by modern works for water and ditch dug for placement (this pit was filled by white sand). Because of what was preserved only the southern half of the original structure (cappuccina) oriented north-south. At the southern boundary of the same grave rested a large square ashlars limestone likely sign of burial. It remained part of the roof beams, under which there were the remains of two skulls side by side, in poor condition, and part of the cost of the individual placed in the primary position, supine, with head facing south. Filling returned fragments of pottery in black paint and three silver coins very well preserved. On two of them, numismatic specimens shows the bust of emperor facing right; the legend on the obverse reads: DN (= dominus) IVSTIN (ianus); While the reverse bears a staurogramma with two small stars under the horizontal arms. Justinian (527-65 a.D.), although emperor of the east, implemented a program of territorial claims in the west. As part of this project started wars of reconquest against the visigoth in Spain (550 a.D.) and against the Ostrogoth in Italy (535 a.D.). He entrusted the direction of the military advance against the Goth to Belisario which came from Sicily to Naples. Complex events and alternate victories led initially the goth king Totila (541-52 a.D.) to reconquer Italy; Justinian’s reaction that ensued, entrusted with the military- run to Narses, determined the final defeat of the goth power in 553 a.D., when Italy became a roman prefecture ruled from Constantinople. Specimens of half silquae attributable to Justin II, bear the following typology: At the forehead, D N IVSTINVS P P AVG, diadem bust, draped and armoured on the right and on the reverse a cross surmounted by a christogram flanked by two stars inside a crown, in one of the three specimens at the base of the crown there is a globe. Justin II (520 – 578) was a byzantine emperor from 565 to 578. The most important event of his reign was the invasion of Italy by the langobards, which from 568, under Alboin, in a few years they became masters of half of the nation, leaving the byzantines most parts, with larger ports of Italy,

The presence of these coins confirms the belief that the ethnic component of the late antique necropolis of Pozzilli is attributable to the ostrogoth. The third coin, of which it has not been possible to find a comparison, bears a bust (later imperial) facing to the right and the legend seems to read [...] VS P P [...]. The burial t. 27 included the usual floor tiled and depositional, as t. 24, received the bones of at least one individual resting directly on double sloping roofs of coverage; on these the same considerations made about t. 24.

**Grave 28**

Flanked to the east by t. 27, also t. 28 belongs to the cappuccina type and also suffered the damage made to positioning the water, albeit to a lesser degree than its predecessor. Cover, consisting of beams and tiles to protect the joints between the fins, preserved partly collapsed on itself. The tomb was bounded on its southern side by a few square blocks of limestone and lime, which is set above the south terminal; It is possible that they were identifying stelae (as already suggested to the nearby t. 27), or elements of delimitation and distinction of burial areas. In coverage were deposed two buried, lying on top of each other and in the primary position. The first skeleton belonged to an adult, lying on his back, arms crossed on the dock and head south (lacking, given the recent decrease, the bones of the feet); the second, however, turned out to be relevant to a subject of childhood, also with head, arms folded on the dock and with legs slightly bent to the left. In addition to filling a black glazed ceramic fragment hem, were found pieces of a thin curved bronze band (perhaps a bracelet) and two bronze earrings golden wet. These suspension rings remained elliptical, smooth and open, with one tapered end and the other swollen; missing the basket, but one of the two specimens conserved residues control handle. The type can be dated to the first half of the 7th century a.D. by the discovery of the exhibits under what remained of the skull buried in childhood leads to report them to the same period and the flatness of the basin of the adult tends to make
people believe that burial has accepted the skeleton of a woman, especially a mother, lost at the same time as the young daughter, as suggested by the fact that at the time of the deposition of small adult's body also was still intact. This confirms the habit, hypothesized in other cases in the necropolis of Pozzilli, burying individuals of the same family in a communal burial.

**Grave 29**

Signaled by the presence of human bones within a strip of yellowish clay, abutting south of USM 19, burial t. 29 probably (even if there is no cover) was supposed to be a *cappuccina*, oriented in a north-south direction, with the skull that must have been in the south. Unfortunately remains only a small portion of the original structure: the northern end, where the individual's foot phalanges were deposed in connection, in primary position, which are side-by-side two skulls and some bones are relevant to as many disjointed skeletons, placed in a secondary position. Also what remains of depositional plan, a large broken tile, shows clear traces of the infringement took place following an extensive and deep cut almost circular in shape, filled by medium to large river pebbles, pieces of roof tiles *fratte* and scattered bones. Among these materials was found a bronze coin of the usual late roman type and a circular embossed circle in the middle, where is spared a greek cross in relief. In all probability the findings described above and scattered bones belong to burial, upset perhaps by modern works that have affected the entire southern portion of the necropolis.

**30 Tomb**

For the case of masonry t. 30, oriented east-west, the same considerations already expressed about the so-called “row graves (t.17 and t. 26) “; unlike these, however, the burial number 30, is cover missing, but still retains in filling the skeleton intact by one individual in the primary position. The body was placed supine, with your legs stretched out, her hands folded above the pelvis and head west. In the land inside the trailer, was found a small piece of white limestone tiles and mosaic fragments of common pottery. The depositional plan consisted of three tiles arranged for piano and decorated, as elsewhere in the necropolis, by a double curvilinear groove engraved.

**Grave 31**

Immediate proximity to the previous tomb, burial t. 31 has in common with that cash, the rectangular type, the east-west orientation, dimensions and irregular brick building components (the pieces joined by lime mortar and pebbles in side slopes and beams decorated with curved lines engraved in depositional plan). As t. 30 also t.31 kept in limestone and mosaic tiles fill a single buried. The skeleton was lying supine, place the primary connection with the head facing west, arms at sides, legs outstretched. The t. 31 *cappuccina* is the only one in the group of which it is part, that have kept track of the beams, whose collapse, along with the weight of pebbles and stones scattered over filling and the partial collapse of the north shore, caused partial damage to the skeleton of the buried. Even t. 31, as all the structures of the “host", were based directly on the small pebbles and gravel geological layer compact river, which was tracked across the area of the necropolis covered or partially cut Tomb structures.

**Grave 32**

Located between t. 28 and the USM 6, the burial was marked by the discovery of sporadic and disjointed bones, pieces of roof tiles, limestone and slag, just under broken, from the ruins of the lower lining in large tiles arranged for piano. Also in this case it is quite likely that the cause of the disruption of the structure is due to the positioning of the neighboring modern water line. The Tomb 32, presumably *cappuccina* type, as seemed to be indicated by survival of two limestone blocks on the sides, had to revert directly above another structure (t. 33), probably in wooden case (see below). The depositional plan on which were the few bone residue, in fact, rested on a second tier of beams arranged for piano: the underlying cover grave 33. Given the poor condition it was not possible to establish if the structure were accepted a deposition monosoma or polysome, nor their primary evidence lying buried in orientation, but in all likelihood had to follow the orientation of the graves nearby, with the head facing south.

**Grave 33**

As just said the burial t. 33 was immediately below the bottom of t. 32. Under the cover of roof tiles for floor came to light an alignment of pebbles on the east side of the structure (along the adjacent wall USM 6) and, in coverage, the skeleton of an individual in connection with the leader in primary position south and other ossa relevant another buried, placed in a secondary position. Alongside the human remains, in particular, were found four iron nails; This data and their location, does believe that burial has benefited from a wooden crate, and the nails were the only proof. In fact, at the time of the excavation the skeletons rested directly on the bare ground, the hall’s geological level River pebbles and gravel.

**Grave 34**

Located southwest of USM 6 and oriented east-west, as this burial t. 34 falls under the lytic case type , with sides made by long blocks of travertine tile and cascade and limestone flakes cover pieces. Poorly preserved remains were found in the filling of an infant, primary, supine position, with the deposed head west, limbs outstretched and crossed the top ones on the dock. The small skeleton rested on pieces of tiles arranged for piano and on a piece of black marble slab, evidently of reuse. Despite the above elements constitute a kind of diaphragm that separates t. 34 by the underlying *cappuccina* t. 45, again, as already in the grave was perhaps 28 t. of the body of a son deposed later over that of the already defunct mother.
Grave 35
Burial tracked north of the USM 8 and northwest of the USM 42 (the furnace). It was a grave trench oriented north-south, which used to cover two large blocks of stone. The largest of these consisted of a massive limestone ashlars of rectangular profile (120x60 cm approx30 cm thick), molded on the upper face, so as to create a central body slightly raised, sloping gently curving sides. In all probability, as indicated by two circular holes on one side where you kept traces of lime, it was a monumental doorway repurposed: the two small cavities, in fact, had to accommodate the hinges of a door, whose rubbing had resulted in the reduction of powderd limestone stone. These cover components rested on side walls made from large river cobbles aligned and a few pieces of tile. Next to the west side have found fragments of a large ceramic vase. The skeleton was intact and in primary connection of one individual, laid on his back, arms crossed on the chest, legs outstretched, overlapping feet pointing to the left and head south. The body rested directly on the thick gravel and pebbles extended under the entire necropolis. The burial, despite its imposing size, was found to be free of particles with which they connoted a particular social status of the deceased.

Grave 36
Burial pit type, with roof tiles, located at the northern limit of sector 3 (a large open area of investigation several metres west of the area of the necropolis itself). The structure was tilted towards northwest/southeast, leaning against the wall of a southeast frustulo limit how conditioned us orientation (USM 269). In this compound, composed of large river stones bound by lime, they blamed three burials (t. 41 and 36, t. t. 63); in particular, the tomb was 36 in specular position than T. 41. The tomb structure was marked by what remained of the roof tiles arranged for piano, under whose collapse, we saw the remains of a buried in connection and in primary position. The body had been lying on his back, with the head turned to the northwest, crossed hands on hips and legs outstretched. The skull was almost completely crushed under the collapsed roof, however the fine dental and skeletal size stage lead us to believe that this was an individual who died at a young age. The body rested directly on the geological layer of pebbles and gravel already reported under the entire area where funerary activity is more concentrated. Next to the boundaries of the burial, on the east side, they were unsouiled the remains of a large ceramic vase, overturned and leaning against the sloping roof collapsed, as well as fragments of dolia.

Grave 37
Grave heavily damaged, found in the eastern sector of the necropolis, oriented east-west. Completely devoid of any remaining coverage, reduced skeletal remains preserved burial of an infant placed in the primary position. Crushed bones of skeleton remained small skull facing west, which rested on a piece of broken tile placed on each floor. Others reduced remnants are related to the right leg, also leaning on a piece of tile, and other bone debris including a piece of lower mandible. The nature of the debris suggests that burial will help originally a depositional plan made with the usual big tile arranged for piano. The proximity of the burial at the southern end of the excavation, where there were also some modern concrete blocks, lead us to believe that in this case the damages can be depended on by recent work.

Grave 38
West of the previous T. 37 and oriented as this east/west, the burial 38 cappuccina type, rests under a cover (only partially preserved) and side rails in long blocks of travertine waterfall. The southern side, partially collapsed about filling, compressed bones from at least five individuals buried within it. One of these, as usual, kept logged into primary position, under the pile of other bones disjointed skeletons. This individual was lying on his back, with the Head west, crossed hands on hips and legs outstretched. Filling the burial did not return items of kit. The bones were based directly on the usual thick layer of river pebbles and stones.

Grave 39
Located next to the previous post, just south-east of this, was also oriented east/west and consists of large blocks of travertine waterfall which realize the cover and the side rails of a lytic case. Also in this case the southern bank has collapsed the fill and, specifically, on the remains of at least two individuals buried within it. Of these, the only connection was deposed in primary position, supine, with the head west who, at the time of the excavation, was tilted on the side, crossed hands on the pelvis and lower limbs stretched out. The skull and other remains of the second skeleton were piled at his feet and along the legs of the last occupant of the burial. Kit items were not found. Even then the depositional plan was the natural layer of gravel.

Grave 40
Grave marked by a cut irregularly shaped and filled by a dark soil, is localized to the southeast margin of the burial area. Although it lacked the coverage that was supposed to seal the contents, most likely it was the remnant of a pit in the ground, in which common ceramic fragments were found and fill in black paint, as well as a pitcher. Regarding the latter exhibit, it’s a pitcher with biconical, high neck and body hem trefoil, base plate, vertical blades. The exterior features a wide vertical stripes painted decoration in red-brown color, arranged roughly in a radial pattern. Just below the hem, on one side, there are two large rod-shaped engraved letters: a M and maybe an E; while the bight, which is slightly skewed, burin graffiture are preserved. They are set at the point of attack with the tub body and depict a long vertical line, intersected by three short transverse furrows and a slightly oblique. The same type of vessel was found at
Vicenna\textsuperscript{16} within tombs (tombs 9, 20 and 23) and is attested in southern Italy, but it has its most distant prototypes in Nocera Umbra and Castelldosino. A few centimeters under the aforementioned reduced bone residue, came to light ceramic finds attributable probably to two individuals. In fact, fragments of a skull and jawbone were found after a Shank, in correspondence of the phalanges of the foot, which leads us to believe that while the remains of the lower limbs were relevant to a skeleton in connection oriented, as in all cases similar with the head west; However inventories of skull and jawbone belonged to a second body in the secondary position, whose bumpy bones were piled at the foot of the last interred (custom established in many cases).

Grave 41
Tomb pit in the ground between 3 and 8 sectors located in the western area of the excavation, several meters away from the area of greatest concentration of burials. T. 41 was oriented northwest/southeast, conditioned by pre-existing wall residue that skirted on the west side (USM 269). The property was bounded on four sides by an array of large river stones, some ended up also over the filling. As well as speculate tomb 41 is 36 t., and was devoid of cover and also has within a layer composed of large alluvial river pebbles and gravel. In coverage has found a fragment of pottery in (terra sigillata Italica) and a skeleton connected primary deposition, with the head turned to the northwest, arms extended along the sides and legs extended. The skeleton was based directly on couch alluvial geological, in which was also cut to the pit.

Grave 42
Burial pit in the ground heavily affected in the modern era, located under the rod h. The facility was reported reduced remains of a skull from an array of medium-small river pebbles and shingles fratte, which bordered on the east side. The tomb was to be oriented approximately east-west, with at least one body buried, with his head turned to the west. In addition to a possible coverage and all the rest of the skeleton, it also lacks any trace of a bank on the opposite side, as well as a lower table top.

Grave 43
Like the previous one, was also greatly damaged by their modern infringements, 43 t. is located east of picket R and is oriented east-west. It was a burial pit in the ground made by the clay layer clare tracked over the area of the necropolis, above the alluvial gravel and pebbles of river bank. It kept just reduced bone debris caused by at least two skeletons. One of which survived only the ends of the lower limbs and feet, turned to the east, was in primary position connection. This makes possible to establish that the deceased had been laid on his back, with the head to the west, while the remains disconnected from the second individual were placed in a secondary position, huddled on the last occupant of the burial.

Grave 44
Parallel to the burials in “host” (see above), oriented as those in an east-west direction and placed a little further north, the burial was found near the picket R, was reported to be pieces of bone debris surfacing and pushed together and scattered tiles around. The Tomb, which revealed a deep ditch and an elliptical east shore composed of large pebbles and pieces of tiles, included a ground-based deposition probably with individual provisions with the head west. The poor condition of the structure, however, does not allow to trace with certainty to the membership type (cash, pit in the ground covered with tiles or cane), nor to those individuals belong the few bones found.

Grave 45
Associated with the already described t. 34, and at its east, t. 45 was lytic case type, oriented in an east-west direction. The structure took on the south side, a side composed of long travertine waterfall and, in the westernmost portion, from pieces of roof tiles and lime; while used as a northern limit large pebbles that are relevant to the wall which took USM6. It had no roof, except for the portion where the floor of the depositional t. 34, and in coverage was found a skeleton lying connected primary. The bones, although badly preserved, revealed that the body had been placed on his back, with his head facing west, crossed hands on hips and legs outstretched. In all likelihood the first structure of t. 45 was partly rebuilt at the time of the second burial, that of an infant and, possibly, the son of the first defunct. They found items of kit and was absent a depositional plan for bones, which were based directly on the layer of crushed geology rock.

Grave 46
Located southwest of t. 38, pit t. 46 was bounded on the long sides by a double bank in medium to large river stones and tiles fratte; on the north side were also used pieces of a dolium. The burial was directed east-west and was devoid of coverage at the time of the excavation. In filling the tank has found the skeleton of a single individual in connection place primary position, lying supine, with the head west, arms and legs outstretched (the bones of the lower limbs are broken in multiple places). This is an adult who kept close to the femur, next to some falangette of the right hand, on which left traces of oxidation, a chunky bronze ring with ring-shaped range, that tapers at the bottom While it is swollen and slightly flattened on the opposite side. The bottom of the burial did not include brick lining, but was the usual plan of crushed stone.

Grave 47
Mail for most directly under the big modern concrete pit located along the SS 88, the northwest limit of the excavation, the tomb monument t. 47 was preserved only for a brief portion (the only south-west). Of the original structure, oriented as burials “detached” from east to west and placed just north of ones, you could recognize only

\textsuperscript{16}Ceglia-Marchetta 2012, p.225.
the west end (a tile with fins placed vertically), part of the cover (a slab of travertine waterfall) and the side rails in vertical tiles. Debris suggests that the tomb was lytic case type. Small bones were found relevant in the coverage at the ends of the lower limbs; This allows you to assert that welcomed the remains of at least one buried in connexion with the body placed in the primary position and the head west. The depositional burial plan took tiles arranged for piano, which were based, as in the rest of the necropolis, on natural alluvial layer.

**Grave 48**

Burial found during the investigation in the area southwest of the area of the necropolis itself and indicated by a dark brown stain elliptical, oriented east-west, where sporadic rationing bones and fragments of tiles. Excision of bone filling only reduced residue returned and revealed that the tomb, whose condition was pretty bad, was based in the ground.

**Grave 49**

Tomb located east of a semicircular profile wall structure (USM 209), on the edge of the escarpment that marked the excavation area on the west side. The presence of a burial was marked by the discovery of a skeleton associated, in primary position, no cover, side gusset or depositional plan. In all probability, therefore, there must be a hole in the ground, oriented east-west, where the buried was deposed in primary, supine position with the head facing west and crossed arms on dock. The entire eastern half of the tomb and skeleton (from the waist down) are missing, notably excised by a large cross cutting performed in modern times. The invasive intervention, perhaps due to the positioning of pipes for agricultural irrigation, runs around the edge of the escarpment.

**Grave 50**

Just south of t. 1, north-south oriented, la cappuccina t. 50 preserved partly the coverage in large tiles; The crest of the gabled roof, in fact, was shaved all at the same level, clearly indicating the extent of modern agricultural decrease. In the filling, which is also partly damaged by the rupture of the coverage, uneven bones were found by at least two individuals, crammed into a secondary position beside and above (particularly concentrated on the lower portion of the body) for the sole skeleton in connexion. It was an adult laid in primary position, lying on his back, with his head facing south, crossed hands on hips and legs outstretched. The bottom of the burial, devoid of brick lining, was enshrined in the usual natural stones.

**Grave 51**

Impressive stone burial chest type, tracked during the study completed within a wall structure concrete U-shaped modern articulated (that is, in two long sides and a short central), located southwest of the aqueduct. The burial, east-west oriented transverse to the wall and USM 9 that leaned with the east end, they played a cover made with three large blocks of limestone arranged for piano. This “lid” was supported on all sides by a combination of large river cobbles and limestone blocks. In coverage has tracked down a buried, laid in primary position, supine adult, with the Head west, arms outstretched to his sides, legs extended and feet that rested on the Terminal. In filling soil have emerged, also, fragments of pottery and glass. The skeleton, probably of an individual female, rested directly on the geological layer made of pebbles and gravel of alluvial origin.

**Grave 52**

The deposition t. 52 was part of a long line of localized burials in the west area of the necropolis, all oriented north-south. At a lower level in relation to t. 1, the depositional plan acted as the coverage of this oldest burial. The Tomb, located just south of t. 6 and t. 58, was pit type, with tiles arranged for level. In coverage was the skeleton of an individual in the primary position, connected on his back, with the unusual flavour of the head facing north, arms crossed at waist and legs outstretched with his feet crossed. Next to the skull there were fragments of a second skull and pelvis; many other bones removed and the remains of two skulls were massed on the south end of the structure, along the sides and at the foot of the last occupant of the burial. The Tomb, in which filling was found a brownish glass border, was devoid of depositional plan in big tile: the bones were based directly on the layer of pebbles of geological nature.

**Grave 53**

The only one among the uncovered burials which have not been dug, because a modern wall, located next to the USM 8 with its northeast side, covers it. Only a portion of the tomb was minimal visible, while the rest was obliterated, and probably at least partially damaged, by the heavy structure that was planted over recently. It can however be seen that burial belonged to cappuccina type and was directed east-west. One can, in fact, distinguish, in addition to the terminal made from a tile placed vertically, rests of the sloping covering of the long side, in the southern sector of the burial, and of the probable depositional plan in shingles.

**Grave 54**

Located in the northwest area of the necropolis, thegrave 54 is probably the worst. In fact, survived only a small pit where minimum bone were found residue. The burial was oriented east-west, drawn directly in the layer of clay covering almost all graves (US 32), no traces of coverage and depositional plan.

**Grave 55**

The characteristics of this tomb structure bind tightly to other two burials: t. 66 and t. 61. They are placed next to each other, t. 55 and t. 61 and the third between the two, inside the space between the top of the slopes. All three also were below a floor in lime mortar wrought residue.
which, in turn, was based on a compact preparatory screed in small river pebbles mixed with lumps of lime. Burials are oriented consistently east-west, with the west end attached directly to the wall residue USM 320. This is what remains of a building located in the southwest of the pit for the aqueduct and northeast of modern concrete wall. The structure is oriented north-south, parallel to the nearby USM 9 and is composed of large blocks of limestone, mixed with river pebbles, pieces of tiles, with abundant use of lime mortar. The wall fragment was preserved for a few centimeters (about two rows of pebbles) and rested directly on the layer of yellowish clay in which are cut the graves of the late antique necropolis. There seems to be a connection between the wall and wrought USM 320: this refers to a consistent construction phase, registered over the three burials and therefore necessarily higher. Under cover in beams, t. 55 preserved skeleton in connection, albeit in poor condition, of an adult in primary position, laid on his back, with the head west, arms folded on the pelvis and legs outstretched. The dating of the tomb is linked to the bronze coin found above the skeleton t. 66 and due to the late-imperial type; this serves as a terminus ante quem for burials t. 55 and t. 61, in addition to the above mixture of lime. The burial, which was on a depositional tiled floor, was free of particles.

Grave 56

The tomb 56 discovered to the east of the modern wall in concrete, adjacent to the structure USM 320, was oriented in the direction north-south. The original plant only had cut limits performed for the pit, in which is found the skeleton connected (though not intact), an individual’s adult primary position, supine, with the head south, deposed crossed hands on the dock and legs stretched out. The invasive infringement concentrated particularly in this area of the necropolis, is probably the cause of the lack of cover tracks, while the depositional plan on which rested the skeleton consists of a thick combination of large stone pebbles, pieces of roof tiles fratte and some lump of lime. The feet, however, were lying just above a large square block of limestone, which borders the southwest wall which the tomb is flanked by (USM 320). In relative chronology, t. 56 is certainly back in relation to the three burials t. 55, t. and t. 66 t.61.

Grave 57

Small burial of an infant, whose minimum residue remained, including those of the small skull place north, ribs and part of the pelvis. The deposition is localised in the area northwest of the USM 9, of which follows the north-south orientation, just north of the cofferdam t. 13. It does not use actual structures (missing, in fact, cover, sides and depositional plan track), but seems rather to have been fixed in space that separated the caissons t. 13° nd t. 59. The tiny skeleton was placed over the side edges of the two properties, transverse tipping responsibilities, simply lying on the ground and remaining standing walls. For these reasons, it is possible to assume that there was a family connection among the young buried, the last of the three to be buried, and the two adjacent adult burials.

Grave 58

The burial t. 58 was traced below the caisson t. 6, which has traced both the size, and orientation in a north-south direction, dictated by the adjacent wall residue USM 9. The skeleton was found in connection, belonging to an adult in primary position, laid on his back, with the head south, arms and legs outstretched. Above these were numerous bumpy bones scattered along the length of the last body buried. Absent any item supplied; the bones were based on a plan made by three tiles, which kept the same oblique grooves engraved decoration already testified in the area.

Grave 59

The tomb was damaged recently by the cut for placement of a water pipe system. Tomb 59, in fact, was like the others who suffered the same fate in the northern portion of the necropolis and, in particular, a few centimeters in the west to t. 13, of which follows orientation (East-West) and types (cappuccina). The tomb is preserved only for a portion of the upper lining tiles, placed per level, they are very damaged under the weight of limestone pebbles probably plummeted from the crest walls of USM 9. Sides of t. 59 were built in river pebbles, limestone flakes and chunks of shingles linked from malta. The Tomb 59 returned still intact on the east side that skirted the wall USM 9, and returned at least two burials. Of these three, one had to be into primary position, with skeleton in connection: in fact it is traced part of the lower limbs and feet, which indicates that the body had been lying on his back, with the head west and legs outstretched. Next to this corpse, bumpy bones have been found at least one individual in the secondary position. The plan was made with depositional tiles.

Grave 60

It is the burial that returned the largest number of items supplied. It is a cappuccina, which arose after the south a long alignment of graves t. 6 above and t. 58 below, t. 1 above and t. 52 under, t. 50, t. 62, all oriented north-south, so much so that one could say “longitudinal row” burials. The covering, discreetly preserved, showed a good example of a gabled roof of (cappuccina) in big tiles: the lugs outward juxtaposed and seams protected by roof tiles; the limits of the short sides terminals consisting of a tile put vertically into the soil. Inside were found the skeletons of two individuals: one in connection, set in primary, supine position with the head southward, crossed hands on hips and legs outstretched; the other, secondary, arranged according to partially disconnected position along the eastern flank and with skull alongside that of the buried. Brown and green glass fragments were next to other inferior, while within the remains of the disjointed skull there was an omega buckle ring in bronze, terminating in lacing. The specimen belongs to a type dating to the 6th century.
in Lucania and in Puglia, but also in Campania: there are buckles reffered to the byzantine culture of VI-VII century. Even in Vastogirardi and Morrone del Sannio were traced objects of the same type: the object, usually tied to women's clothing, is identifiable with a buckle to close a bag. Under the aforementioned skull, there was also a iron blade knife and an elliptical bronze belt buckle ring, flattened barb that articulates with a tapered teardrop shaped cross offshoot at the top, where it ends with a eyelet holes. We could not find any precise comparison, but the type of buckle ring invokes similar shapes spread in the clothing of the Lombards. The plan was made by three depositional beams arranged forlevel, with lugs facing downwards.

**Grave 61**

Immediately north of *cappuccina* tomb 55, and just like that one, was covered by the floor in lime mortar residue and its preparatory screed. The structure was oriented east-west, transverse to the USM 320 that leaned on its west end. Under the gabled roof composed of beams and tiles to protect the splices, there were numerous disarticulated and crushed bones by the weight of large pebbles placed above the roof. The remains were relevant to at least two skeletons, one adult and one teenager, part of a skull place west; given the poor condition of the fill of the burial was not possible to know whether such burials had been laid in t. 61 in primary position. Near the west end came to light two precious bronze pins with heads spherical and tapered end, long about 6 cm. Those are perhaps related to clothing or jewelry accessories for the hair of women. The *cappuccina* is found to be lacking a depositional plan in big tile: the bones were based directly on the layer of yellowish clay within which were obtained most of the ditches of the necropolis.

**Grave 62**

Small elliptical profile pit, located in the space between t. 50 and t.60, in the group of tombs here called “longitudinal terraced” (t. 24, t. 6, t. 58, t. 52, t.62, t.50,t. 60), all oriented almost perfectly north-south. The burial cover was missing and loose bones kept crammed on multiple levels, among which included the remains of three cranial caps. In coverage was found a bronze coin of late roman type. Given the small size of the pit, the crowding of disarticulated bones in such a reduced space and the absence of cover and bottom lining elements, allow us to say it was an ossuary. Perhaps the skeletal remains had been placed in a wooden box or simply in a ditch, probably alongside more recent burials of individuals linked by family ties. The bones were based directly on the rubble of alluvial formation.

**Grave 63**

Tomb pit in the ground between 3 and 8 sectors, located in the western area of the excavation, several meters away from the area of greatest concentration of burials. T. 63 was oriented northwest/southeast, conditioned by pre-existing wall residue that skirted on the west side (USM 269), like the nearby t. 41. The structure consisted of a ditch made in the ground (alluvial layer) composed of large river stones and gravel. In his coverage were found a few pieces of remaining of the original tiles *fratte*, perhaps the covering ones. TThe skeleton in connection it welcomed an individual placed in the primary position, supine, with head northwest, arms extended along the sides and legs extended. The bones were based directly on alluvial and accompanying items were not found.

**Grave 64**

Tomb of *cappuccina* type tracked southwest area affected by invasive modern activities related to the positioning of pipes for agricultural irrigation. In fact, all that remained of the original structure were only minimal remains from the crest of slopes in beams, next to which was found a small bronze coin of late roman type. The rest of the burial was drastically cut out so much that remained bone residues nor of another sort. What was left of the cover allows you to establish that the grave was oriented in an east-west direction approximately transverse to the nearby t. 23, which lies immediately to the east.

**Grave 65**

The t.65, *cappuccina* burial, came to light southeast of t. 16, oriented as this north-south. The crest of the gabled roof of cover was clearly shaved, indicating the level reached by the modern infringement. The lower part of the cover and the underlying coverage, however, is kept intact, returning as well as coal and glass fragments and the remains of at least three skeletons. Of these, as usual, only one, laid in primary position lying supine, with folded arms on the pelvis, legs outstretched and feet facing north. The bones of other individuals, laid in secondary position, rested scattered and disconnected above and to the sides of the skeleton connected. At the north end of the tomb, where we would have expected to find the latter’s skull buried, was instead a large round cut, medium-sized pebbles filled pieces of roof tiles *fratte* and dark soil where they emerged remnants of bones animals (pig, rabbit or hare tusks and bones of other small rodent) For such accommodation the same considerations expressed with regard to the similar reality exists at t. 18 (see above): it would be that is, again, the testimony in the necropolis is perpetuated the rite of refrigerium. The remains of the deceased rested on a plan made by three depositional beams placed in the floor, with the tabs pointing down.

**Grave 66**

The burial t. 66 is placed in the narrow space available between the cover ridges of the two *cappuccina* t. 55 and t. 60, oriente like those in the east-west direction. T.66 was added only at a later time, adjusted and protected by the use of large pebbles that were both side sides and partial cover. This arrangement kept safe the entire skeleton of an individual of childhood, probably bound by ties of kinship to the deceased below graves. The body was lying on his
back, with his hands crossed at waist, legs outstretched and head west, tilted to the side. At the small skull was a bronze coin of late imperial type.

**The wall structures**

**USM 6**

At the north end of the burial area, to the south-west of the concrete well, the residual of a masonry structure (USM 6) was detected, consisting of medium and large-sized river pebbles and a limestone dressed employed at the outer corner, bound by clay mixed with some lump of lime. The masonry has reduced dimensions (about 130 cm x 80 in the north-south oriented residue and 50 x 80 cm in the transverse section) and proceeds for a short distance in the east-west direction, and for the rest, after a sharp bend at right angles, in the north-south direction. This leads to the belief that it was the edge of an oriented vain that occupied roughly the central area of the future necropolis. The structure was preserved at the level of foundation, for a single row, directly resting on the bench of yellowish clay in which were made the ditches for burials. This makes it possible to deduce that the riser, and therefore the building levels connected to it, had to extend much higher. The evolution of the bear walls influences the orientation of the burials that are on the four sides (T. 9, 32, T. 33, T. 34 and T. 45), demonstrating its seniority with respect to the installation of the Necropolis. The lower limit of the tombs is much deeper than the wall level, from 30 to 50 cm under the term of the pebble row, which indicates that the phase of realization of the burial structures is placed at a time when the USM 6 and of course the original building context, or at least a part of it had already been substantially destroyed or modified. The hypothesis that the pits were made under the floor plan connected to the room is not plausible, both because the flooring (and consequently also the burials placed immediately below it) should have been well higher than the limit of the Foundation, both because digging behind and under the base of the structures of an environment still standing would have severely undermined the stability of the entire structure.

**USM 8, USM 19 and USM 209**

These are three fragments of masonry structure connected, consisting of irregular river pebbles of medium-large dimensions, tied together with lime. The building residue was identified in the central sector of the burial area, at the east end, according to an orientation that part directed east-west (USM 8), it bends to north-south (USM 19) and proceeds with a rear arrangement with respect to the first two (USM 209), which attaches to the north of USM 19 and continues so as to draw a semicircle protruding eastward. The larger dimensions in the wall thickness, the use of pebbles of smaller dimensions and the greater percentage of lime, differentiate the last from the first two structures and bind it to a separate construction phase and rear compared to that which unites USM 8 and USM 19. These two bodies, in fact, define again the corner of a great room, which probably joined the west with the USM 9 and which incorporates inside a smaller room, of which remains testimony in USM 6.

The southern section of the wall (USM 8) proceeds parallel to the southern section of USM 6 (see above), and is made with the same type of construction technique and materials; instead, the eastern section (USM 19) is perfectly parallel to both the second piece of USM 6 (the north-south directed) and the two USM 9 residues traced to the west portion of the necropolis. The perfect correspondence of orientation, the structural coincidences and the disposition of the fragments lead to believe that they were all part of a coherent building system, organized in vains of various dimensions. In any case, the structures are kept at the foundation level, from a minimum of one to a maximum of four rows of pebbles and all (always except USM 209) have conditioned the orientation of numerous tombs of the late-ancient necropolis. USM 8 and, in part, USM 19 are instead in relation to the structures of a lime furnace (USM 42, see below), above which they were set. This returns testimony of two different phases of building settlement in the area: one first, exemplified by the furnace, probably dating from Roman times and a second, testified by USM 8 and USM 19 that were set above the production plant now in disuse. The USM 209 is perhaps the result of a subsequent rehashing, perhaps a restoration, or perhaps, on the basis of the greater thickness of the wall, returns testimony of an apse.

**USM 9**

Located in the southwest sector of the necropolis, not far from the β point (see general plan), the wall structure USM 9 is made up of large irregular river pebbles linked by abundant lime. The masonry runs parallel to the western section of USM 6 (see above), north-south direction. Of the original structure survive only the first two rows of foundation, testified today in two separate sections because of the net cut of part of the wall, operated during the modern excavation for the positioning of a large water pipe. The USM 9 bear several burials of the type a *cappuccina* (T. 6 and the underlying T. 58, T. 13, T. 59, T. 51, T. 57, T. 24 and T. 53). Also for this structure are valid the same considerations already expressed regarding USM 6, USM 8 and USM 19 (see above).

**USM 42: the lime furnace**

Located in the southeast area of the necropolis, the USM 42 wall structure was immediately identified with a furnace. The shape was reported, on the surface, by a large circular stain of clay of bright red color that surrounded on both sides the USM 8. The characteristic tonality of a soil subjected to very high temperatures, the unequivocal circular profile of the stain and, just below, of the masonry structure confirm the initial supposition. The plant is canonical: the Chamber of baking cylindrical section is bounded by a wall composed of river pebbles of medium-large dimensions and brick pieces in the lower part and at the inlet, then it thins in the higher portion which is composed of minute river gravel.
compressed together with clay; The wall was covered with refractory stone and clay. The plant was dug directly inside the natural soil layer of alluvial formation. The bottom of the chamber is enshrined in a bank of compressed lime and consolidated by strong heat; it accomodated in the center a circular pit which served as a combustion area, still filled with black soil and burnt ash. In the south-east, at the bottom, finally opened the entrance to the praefurnium: a narrow opening bounded by two solid limestone ashlers placed vertically to be made by jambs; probably, originally, they had to support an architrave of the same nature. Once exhausted its function, probably linked to the production of lime, the plant was filled with large pebbles of river, pieces bricks and soil. On this basis and partially on the USM 42 itself, the foundation of USM 8 and USM 19 was subsequently set up. Given the typology of the few ceramic fragments found in the aforementioned filling, it is considered probable that the furnace, like the lime furnace, was dated back to Roman times.

**USM 132 and USM 121**

It is a residual wall located in the most westerly area of the excavation, a few dozen meters away from the area where the burials were concentrated. The structure was composed of a long stretch directed north-west/southeast and a short frustoletum which set it contiguous and transverse at the southeast end. Although what remained was only the first entrapment of foundation, however, the fact testifies the presence of a building of a large side, also in this area. The material found in the adjacent ditch of the foundation allows to date the structure at the roman time, probably republican. The layer has, in fact, returned several pieces in black glaze ceramic, an amphora rim with rhodium stamp datable between 180 and 150 b.C., glass and some pieces in terra sigillata with appliques.

**USM 269**

A whipping wall located in the western sector of the excavation, in a very poor state of preservation. The wall is oriented north-west/south-east, with traces of an adjacent and transverse second that was set at the northwest end, to perhaps make the corner of another room. On the longer stretch you bear three burials (T. 36, T. 41 and T. 48), which, besides being at a considerable distance from the area where the most concentration of burial structures is located, differ from those in various aspects. First in all three cases these are simple graves cut in the soil (only T. 36 preserves traces of roofing in tiles), moreover the burial are cut directly within the geological layer of natural formation characterized by large pebbles and gravel, while in the main area of the necropolis the pits were cut a in a bank of yellowish clay; finally, next to the buried, there were no coins of the late antique type, as was the case in the burial area in the north-east, but indeed, next to the skeleton of T. 41, there was a fragment of ceramic in Sigillata Italica. On the basis of these elements it is considered probable that the burials located in this area belong to a distinct and previous phase compared to those of the late ancient necropolis. Although it does not keep track, given the low level of structures, the foundation ditch, based on the position and the identical orientation with the USM 132 and 121 described above, it is considered probable that even USM 269 is relevant to a building of roman times.

**USM 320**

A residual wall (M 2.50 approx. x 0.80), traced to the west end of the excavation, southwest of the modern concrete shaft, oriented north-south. The structure was composed of large pebbles of river, some tiles and abundant lime. At the northwest end, the wall also benefited from a large rectangular dressed in limestone, which served as an extreme limit and protruded slightly from the thickness of the remainder of the structure, in the south direction: with a good probability it was a cantonal. It runs parallel to the already described USM 9, the western portion of the USM 6 and the USM 19, with which it also shares construction technique, dimensions and material used. Also in this case there were only a couple of rows of foundation, directly resting on the layer of yellowish clay within which were dug the pits for burials. In the other cases, a series of burials T. 56, T. 55, T. 61 and T. 66 were supported by the wall. Of these, the three localized in the western sector are at a level that starts from the limit of the spine of foundation and were covered by a compact preparatory screed in dense pebbles of small dimensions and lumps of lime, on which rested in turn a wrought lime flooring. The residue of flooring is significant, as it testifies the connection of the wall USM 132 with a plan of attendance, evidently latter to the realization of the tombs below, which must be related to a construction phase articulated in walls and floors, which is set on burials whose terminus post quem is established by the late republican bronze coin found in T. 66.

**The lime furnace trench D and the USM 72**

During the work of excavation carried out by the scraper, in a large area located several meters away from the test a, in the south, has been localized, in the section of the escarpment, a large portion of a circular strcture, characterized by soil of reddish colour. In order to reach stratigraficamente the level of D 2, it was proceeded by a systematic scientific excavation, which has highlighted, below the humus (about 150 cm of height), a thick alluvial layer (US 11) of dark brown color, composed of silty land, sand and medium-large river pebbles. Within this layer, perhaps accumulated in the area during the construction of the State Road 88, at a depth of 60 cm, has been traced a sector of modern contamination (US 13), characterized by abundant remnants referring to the Second World War. These are spools, lids of metal containers of hand grenades and sporadic presence of gunpowder. The US 13 layer, with good certainty, represents a waste ditch of war residues made in the modern era. Below this sector, at a depth of about 110 cm, came to light a burial (D 1), partially dented during work carried out by the mechanical machine (missing the upper part of the skeleton, from the pelvis up). The position of the bones (both feet are retained, the shins,
the brooches, the femurs, a few fragments of pelvis and vertebrae, indicates that the body, lying on the ground and small pebbles of river, was huddled with the legs folded (probably in fetal position). The bottom of the burial was ensnared in clayey soil of intense reddish colour (US 73), which indicated that the area had been subjected to very high temperatures. The reddish layer filled a cut from the roughly semicircular profile (US-16). The excision of the filling has brought to light a wall structure consisting of large river pebbles arranged in rows and bound by mortar (USM 72). The wall follows the same profile as the US-16 cut, but before the excavation which has partially damaged this structure, it had to continue in order to carry out a circular shape. A few centimeters below the highest row of stones preserved the layer of soil reddish changes in colour: it has a shade close to dark brown (US 104), albeit still abundantly mixed with the same reddish coloration already detected in the US 73, as well as sporadic lumps of lime. Inside the US 104 were found shell finds, brick fragments and large agglomerates of lime. It is with good certainty of cooking residues; the structure, therefore, constituted a productive plant and, in particular, a lime furnace, that is a klin where, from the baking of limestone flakes, an important building component was obtained: the binder, the lime. The structure is made up of a cylindrical section cooking chamber, internally covered by a layer of lime coarsely flattened on the surface and is slightly closer to the base, where a top is kept in a beaten lime and stiffened by cooking. Probably on the east side opened the *praefurnium*, which gave access to the combustion sector still filled by a black layer of coal and ash residues. It lacks the cover, perhaps made of tiles every time the use made it necessary; there is no trace of any type of diaphragm between the combustion chamber and that of firing, perhaps also of a provisional nature. After falling into disuse, the furnace was filled with the material described above, including numerous ceramic fragments (walls of large containers and pieces of *dolia*; they also found in abundance bones of small animals). Among these are the remains of two ceramic containers (probably *Olle*) placed at the same elevation, of which only the bottom and pieces of the walls that are attached to it (diam. approx. 16 cm) are preserved. The first of the two vases is made of poorly cooked ceramics (as indicated by the double colouring of the mixture in section: The inner half of greyish-chamois; while the outer orange one is off); Abundant including micaceous, also, denote a rather crude quality of dough. The second vase retains a very similar composition, albeit of a poorer level and of bad cooking.

**Methodology**

Anthropoligical and archeological record card, a sample, Tomb 6 (Tables 1–3).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Giacitura (deposition)</th>
<th>Primary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the right side of the left weaken, a belt made of iron; a proximity of the left foot there is a knife in the same metal. There are no, however, certain elements to assign the relevance of the same to the individual a, despite of who individual b.</td>
<td>1 the skeleton, in its entirety, retains a height of 180 cm. approximately, however the space occupied by the feet is reconstructed only hypothetically given by the bones of this part of the body decomposed in bulk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 Anthropoligical and archeological record card, a sample Tomb 6

2 the rib cage is about 50 cm long. The basin 15 cm. about.

3 the legs occupy a total space of 94 cm. about.
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise.

Table Continued

4. The width of the skeleton is 40 cm. at the maximum point (i.e., at the clavicles).

5. The arms reach a total length of about 66 cm., obtained from the juxtaposition of the humeri (about 36 cm.) and of ulna and radius (approximately 30 cm.). The bones of the hands are found broken down and scattered near the pelvis.

6. The humerus measures 55 cm. about, the tibia is preserved for 40 cm., but is not complete.

7. The skull measures 20 cm. approximately, but it must be taken into account that the mandible is displaced by several centimeters and that the jaw was lacunose (the teeth are missing). The cervical vertebrae occupy a length of 5 cm. about.

8. Male

If the relevance of the iron belt buckle to individual A (the one in question) was demonstrated

Osservazioni

The body is placed in primary position, in supine position, with arms folded and bent 90° just above the pelvis. The legs tend to converge near the N end of the tomb.

Interpretazioni

The body of individual A must have been deposited within the T 6 a Cappuccina tomb at a later time than its first use. In fact, the tomb was initially intended to accommodate the individual B, who was then moved to make room for the uninatus A.

Elementi datanti (evidence for dating)

The buckle and the knife if they belong to A corpse

Bronze late antique coin and ceramic shreds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interazione</th>
<th>Periodo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The deposition of inhumate A interacts with the previous burial of individual B (there are no elements to accurately determine the chronological relationships between the two buried).</td>
<td>Aprx. mid VI sec. a.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, Province of Isernia, Molise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confronti</th>
<th>Analisi Malta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantità</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dimensioni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mx %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bibliografia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabbia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data di rilevazione | Data di rielaborazione | Il responsabile | La direzione dei lavori |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-12-2004</td>
<td>13-12-2004</td>
<td>Il responsabile</td>
<td>La direzione dei lavori</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Anthropological and archaeological record card, a sample Tomb 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Località</th>
<th>Pozzilli, ANAS km. 27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edificio – Area</td>
<td>Saggio C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nucleo – Saggio</th>
<th>Livello – Settore</th>
<th>Ambiente</th>
<th>Parete – Quadrato</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>US 27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Riferimenti</th>
<th>Piante</th>
<th>Prospetti</th>
<th>sezioni</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tecnic muraria (masonry)</th>
<th>Campionatura materiali</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cappuccina type, which uses as a limit E two long limestone blocks US 54 (perhaps for re-use) and large tiles used in the side lining O (US 52), in those N and S (US 53) and in the depositional plan (US 55).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Mattone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensioni</th>
<th>Tipologia</th>
<th>Relazione stratigrafica</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lungh. Cm. 235 x largh. Cm. 70.</td>
<td>Uguale a</td>
<td>Si lega a US 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quote</th>
<th>Sarcofago</th>
<th>Coperto da</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>210,201</td>
<td>(cappuccina)</td>
<td>US 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provenienza materiali</th>
<th>Enchytrismos</th>
<th>Tagliato da</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uso prinari</th>
<th>riutilizzo</th>
<th>Delm. Pezame</th>
<th>Taglia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stato di conservazione</th>
<th>Fossa</th>
<th>Cassa</th>
<th>Riempio da</th>
<th>Riempie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>allegati</th>
<th>Tumulo</th>
<th>Gli si appoggia</th>
<th>Mensa</th>
<th>Si appoggia a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US 61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of piana del fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

Table Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Riferimento US e USM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materiali</th>
<th>Lavorazione</th>
<th>Consistenza</th>
<th>Forma</th>
<th>Colore</th>
<th>Impasto</th>
<th>Posa in opera</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crudi</td>
<td>Tenero</td>
<td>Triangolari</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poco depurato</td>
<td>Filari orizzont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotti al sole</td>
<td>Duro</td>
<td>Quadrati</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Depurato</td>
<td>Filari ondulati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotti</td>
<td>Molto duro</td>
<td>Rettangolari</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spina di pesce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mattoni</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semifusi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inclusi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sfaldati</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufo</td>
<td>Spaccati</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Taglio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sbozzati</td>
<td>Regolari</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a scalpello</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quadrati</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spianati</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pietra</td>
<td></td>
<td>Irregolari</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a sega</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipo</td>
<td>Consistenza</td>
<td>Colore</td>
<td>Inerti</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legante</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Descrizione:
The bone residues, except for the skull, are kepted well during the side or of the cappuccina, at the lower limestone of individual A.

Table 3 Tomb 6 secondary burial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corredo (kit)</th>
<th>Giacitura</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>See previous card</td>
<td>secondary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2 Fragments Of Scapole And Upper Arts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A Femore, a tibia and pieces of lower arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Skull; Jaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newborn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Osservazioni:
The bone residues, except for the skull, are kepted well during the side or of the cappuccina, at the lower limestone of individual A.
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

Interpretazioni

The bones of the individual b must probably belong to the first occupant of the tomb, or they will be inserted, transported by another burial.

Elementi datanti

The elements of the kit are a terminus post quem for dating.

Interazione

The state of conservation and the position of the observations of individual b depend on relations with the deposition of individual a.

Periodo

END OF V-VI SEC. A.D.

Analisi Malta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calce</th>
<th>Quantità</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dimensioni

Max % Min %

Calcare marnosi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarzo</th>
<th>Ofioliti</th>
<th>Arenarie</th>
<th>Altro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Confronti

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sabbia</th>
<th>Altro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Bibliografia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data di rilevazione</th>
<th>Data di rielaborazione</th>
<th>Il responsabile</th>
<th>La direzione dei lavori</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13/12/04</td>
<td>15-12-04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Località

Pozzilli

Edificio – Area
Piana del Fiume

Nucleo – Saggio
Saggio C

Livello – Settore
US 27

Ambiente

Parete - Quadrato

Foto: si

BN:

Riferimenti

Pianta

SI

Sezioni

SI

Dia X

Tecnica muraria

Cappuccina type, which uses as a limit E two long limestone blocks US 54 (perhaps for re-use) and large tiles used in the side lining O (US 52), in those N and S (US 53) and in the depositional plan (US 55).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modulo</th>
<th>Campionatura materiali</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malta Mattone Pietra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Affligimento

Sepoltura

Modulo

Tipologia

Sepoltura

Relazione stratigrafica

Uguale a

Si lega a

US 27

Quote

210°163

(cappuccina)
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

Table Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provenienza materiali</th>
<th>Enchytrismos</th>
<th>Tagliato da</th>
<th>Taglia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uso primario</td>
<td>riutilizzo</td>
<td>Delm. Pezzame</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stato di conservazione</td>
<td>Fossa</td>
<td>Riempito da</td>
<td>Riempie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discreto</td>
<td>Cassa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegati</td>
<td>Tumulo</td>
<td>Gli si appoggia a</td>
<td>US 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegati</td>
<td>Mensa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Riferimento US e USM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materiali</th>
<th>Laborazione</th>
<th>Consistenza</th>
<th>Forma</th>
<th>Colore</th>
<th>Impasto</th>
<th>Posa in opera</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mattoni</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tufo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Descrizione:
Remains of a skeleton placed in secondary deposition within the Capuchin structure T 6. The bones are piled up loose along the O side of the Cappuccina, near the lower half of the individual A; while the skull is flanked by that of the inatoated A, at the end S of the tomb structure.

Conclusion

The archaeological excavation carried out in Piana del Fiume, in the municipality of Pozzilli province of Isernia, in the first has allowed to recover an archaeological area of enormous interest that if it had not been identified quickly would have been destroyed by the works for the road construction. This report represents a preliminary phase to a wider study that will have to start as soon as possible, especially for the particular study on the collected scientific data and on of the finds found. The amount of information collected must be shortly the subject of deep analysis to learn more about chronological dating, and the cultural context of the people buried. However you can certainly identify the necropolis as one of the burial sites linked to the presence of Germanic populations, thanks to some items of equipment such as for example the scamasax of Tomb 6, combined with multiple belt buckles and coins, which exactly cover the period of Justinian Emperor. Probably, according to the preliminary dating of the ceramic findings, the chronological frame is the one between the Byzantines and the Ostrogoths wars for dominion over Italy. For this historical period, understood by the arrival of the Ostrogoths
in Italy and the wars with the Roman Empire of the east (493-553), the historical and archaeological informations are relatively very few. Our specific case study is hoping to bring new data to the knowledge of this historical period in Central Italy. In particular, the appearance of the funeral rite has been highlighted to the monetary offering, articulated on offer within the tomb and at the same offered outside of burial, during the same memorial rites. The stratigraphic sequence traced during the excavation offers a fairly clear picture of the attendance of the area. The oldest documented archaeological phase is represented by the two wall circles traced in the trench C and D (USM 42 and USM 72). In both cases, they are furnaces for the realization of lime, circular in shape, placed, albeit distant from each other, at an altitude almost corresponding. With good probability these residues are to be interpreted as what remains of implants dating back to Roman times. It is considered probable that at the same stage the masonry residues, located in the western part of the excavation (the USM 121, 132, and 269), seem to restore the memory of a private building complex, located along the important road artery leaving from Venafro, and datable back to Republican age. In fact, in addition to the presence of the two furnaces for lime, also the type of material found during the excavation, reused, is attributable to this dating (pieces of dolia, weights from loom, fragments of marble slabs, pieces of mosaic, lumps of cocciopesto, a large threshold in local stone, limestone ashlars, fragments of amphorae—including a loop with rhodium stamp-, ceramics of domestic use, sealed italic and black paint, bronze needles and Republican coins), allows you to assume that the nature of the building was that of a production plant or rustic villa.

The site of the necropolis, in fact, is part of the area that was the scene of the raids of Ostrogoths, involved in the campaigns of the Greco-Gothic War (535-553 A.D.). With the fall of the Roman empire, in fact, Molise was the scene of the barbarian invasions, the Heruli, the Ostrogoths and the Byzantines. Many cities were razed to the ground. The plain of Venafro, in fact, was located, straddling the 6th and 7th centuries, close to the boundary between the Langobardia Minor and the territories still in the hands of the Byzantines. In particular, Venafro and its territory fell under the control of the Lombards of Benevento only in 595 D. C. by the Duke Arechi. It was probably through the control of the main river valleys that the Byzantines tried to bar the access to the coast to the Lombards of Benevento. It is known, in fact, that in this period the Ostrogoths were relevant in the Sannio, from where, as Cassiodorus reminds us, every year they went to Ravena, to receive the gifts from their king. According to the written sources, the southern provinces, including the Samnium, Campania and the areas far from the coast of Lazio, remained free of the main Ostrogoths settlements. So far, indeed, the absence of the Ostrogoths tombs in the whole region south of the via Valeria (Pescara-Rome) and the correlation between the scarce or null presence of the Ostrogoths settlements in southern Italy and the numerical presence of small garrisons, with the exception of Cuma and Naples, – made it think that the Ostrogoths were subordinated to the military situation. In this framework, the necropolis found in Pozzilli, takes on an exceptional documentary value. The cemetery phase described above, was obliterated by a layer of destruction of the tombs themselves (US 5), following the seasonal agricultural work perpetrated in the area until recent times, and therefore due to the invasive modern activities for the positioning of a water supply along the western boundary of digging and plumbing for agricultural irrigation on the east side. The aforementioned damages explain the ruinous state of some burials, the lack of the covers or the fillings in some of them and the impossibility, in some cases, to trace the cuts for the insertion of the tombs themselves. The above level of destruction, then, was in turn covered by a thin layer of natural storage (US 2) and, in the final analysis, by a thick humus sector (US 1) which preserves the materials of the different phases of frequentation of the area mixed with each other. The better preserved tombs have been dug in a systematic way allowing us to advance some considerations regarding the funeral ritual. In two cases, have been found the remains of the funeral banquet, in the vicinity or inside the tomb structures: Ceramic fragments, animal bones and antracological artifacts. Very frequently, were found, above and beside the skeleton in connection, a large number of disjointed bones, in particular skulls, often placed next to the head of the last buried, and long bones, massed in the terminal portion of Burial. It is therefore observed a close relationship between the deposition of a new deceased and the arrangement of already disconnected skeletons within the same structure.

A phase of reuse was hypothesized, presumably the most late in the use of the cemetery, in which the most “representative” bones (such as skulls and basins) were laid inside the crates, while smaller ones (vertebrae, hands, feet) were buried elsewhere or directly in the ground, evidently still considered as sacred area. Some, in fact, show that the individual in primary deposition, is not necessarily the first to have been buried. At the time of the reuse of the tomb, infact the corpse in primary deposition was set set leaning against one of the walls, in order to leave the space necessary to mass or the bones Of the pre-existing individual or those translates from another burial. This is easily explained by hypothesizing a long continuation of use of the funeral area and the reuse of a burial, probably to the death of members of the same family strain. This element, combined with the simplicity of the majority of the tomb structures and the poverty of the kit contained in them, photographs an extremely poor community, except, perhaps, for the T. 6 body which, already for the imposing measures and for the greater monumental claim of the structure, it is presumed to have belonged to an individual of particular rank, as possible to imagine even for T. 35. Even the existence of overlapping burials or obtained at best in the spaces between them, indicates a prolonged continuity of funerary use, a substantial poverty of means and a articulation of the sepulchral dynamics linked, perhaps, to parental constraints. Only a detailed and desirable anthropological study, will be able to contribute to
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise

the archaeological research started at the Piana del Fiume and to contribute to the detailed knowledge of the human remains found in the various burials.  

Acknowledgments

This work has been taught to Dr. Pilar Giuseppina di Valerio as a perpetual memory.

Funding

None.

Conflicts of interest

Author declares that there is no conflicts of interest.

References


28. Pani LE. The sepulchres in Sardinia from the 4th to the 7th century: state of knowledge and research perspectives. Le sepolture in Sardegna from the 4th to the 7th century. Proceedings of the IV Conference on Late Roman and Medieval Archeology in Sardinia (Cagliari-Cuglieri...
The tracks of an important late Roman Germanic necropolis in central Italy: the archaeological excavation in the area of Piana del Fiume in the municipality of Pozzilli, province of Isernia, Molise


31. Raddi M. Contribution to the knowledge of the territory of the Upper Volturno in the transition from late antiquity to the Middle Ages. I-2006 CISAM Spoleto: Temporis Signa; p. 335–351.


