

# MASTER PLAN - CARSULAE

## CARSULAE BATHS RESEARCH PROJECT - SAN GEMINI PRESERVATION STUDIES

#### 1. Master Plan Carsulae

The Master Plan seeks to facilitate public access to the site of Carsulae and increase understanding of the historic conditions of the town.

a. Re-establish the ancient Via Flaminia as the principal access to the Archaeological Park, retracing the route of the consular road and providing a more contextually-

sensitive entry sequence from the south.

i. This orients visitors and interprets the original layout of the city.

ii. The entry sequence is the historical one.

- b. Re-establish original Roman streets, where known, as pathways for visitors within the site, allowing them to understand the layout of the original town.
  - i. To extent possible, render these internal pathways fully accessible.
  - ii. Map and interpret the original streets as they become known through ongoing excavation and investigation.
- c. Retain existing modern roads where needed for service or emergency access, with adjustments to render them less conspicuous within the archaeological area when they do not conform to original street layout.

i. Avoid confusion between modern service road and ancient Via Flaminia, other original Roman Streets.

- ii. Use pervious pavement system that visually "masks" the modern service road from most points of view or, if feasible, relocate service road outside of archaeological zone.
- d. Consider options for treatment of the northern edge of the site, possibly a second entrance to the Archaeological Park from Via Flaminia north of the site.









## New Visitor Center and Entry Complex.

Create a new visitor entrance, orientation facility, and basic visitor services at a point south of the town on the Via Flaminia, easily reached by vehicle, bicycle, or walking from San Gemini.

- a. This new entrance facility might make use of the existing structures of the former macelleria owned by the Astolfi family.
  - i. The visitor enters the town in the way as it was entered historically, similar to Ostia Antica.
  - ii. Existing buildings are both old and new, suggesting flexibility for re-purposing while maintaining a connection to the post-antique history of the area.
  - iii. Accommodate parking, bus drop-off, ticketing, visitor services, orientation displays, etc.
  - iv. Study design of such new elements to maximize harmony and continuity with the character of the site. v. This location aids the interpretation of the "cultural
  - landscape" aspect of the program, including possible sales of local agricultural and artisanal products.
- vi. Consider the feasibility of an agriturismo component here or elsewhere at the site or in the surrounding areas. b. Further develop/expand the existing museum/interpretive



- i. Northern terminus of the Via Flaminia within the park is undeveloped, requiring further treatment and interpretation.
- ii. A redeveloped northern entrance would reinforce the position of Carsulae in the larger Via Flaminia route.
- e. Allow those touring the Via Flaminia but not visiting the Park to by-pass it and continue along the Via Flaminia to the north.
  - i. Those following the Via Flaminia itinerary can purchase a card allowing free entry to multiple sites, including Carsulae.
- f. Improved access road from the Strada Statale to accommodate automobiles, bicycles, tourist buses, etc. with parking at the new southern entry point.

## 2. Archaeological Projects: Comprehensive presentation, and priorities for future investigation.

- g. Provide a "clearing-house" for presenting to the public as well as to the investigative teams an overview of the current state of knowledge about the site.
  - i. Under direction of a Scientific Committee made up of the museum director/ curator, lead researchers of the various ongoing investigations, representatives of local authorities, etc.
  - ii. Coordinate the interpretive program at the site and publicize new publications about ongoing research related to Carsulae, the Via Flaminia, and the surrounding region.
- h. Promote understanding of the urban structure of Carsulae as a whole, beyond the individual buildings, and document the urban scale of the town as more knowledge emerges from the individual sites.
  - i. Suggest priorities for further investigation likely to increase understanding of the urban structure of the city.
  - ii. For example, connection between the bath complex and the surrounding area, possible location for other bath facilities, clarifying water management infrastructure, more typical residential building fabric, suspected presence of a quarry and terra cotta manufacturing, etc.

j. The Master Plan should present priorities for the conservation of the findings of the



- program.
- i. Enhance the existing museum by increasing accessibility, improving lighting and environmental controls, etc.
- ii. Update museum collection and exhibits for a more comprehensive, informative, and updated display.
- iii. Consider adding additional pieces, especially architectural features that cannot be retained in situ at the site.
- iv. Use the museum exhibits to tell the complete story of Carsulae in the expanded historical and geographical context noted above.
- v. Use the museum displays to interpret the urban ensemble of the town, drawing together the evidence from disparate archaeological investigations under the direction of a professional curator.
- c. Re-purpose existing museum building to house needed support services.
  - i. Current custodian space and storage are inadequate, provide redesigned/expanded accommodation in or near the current museum building.
  - ii. Add an on site conservation lab with "visitable storage" facility that would allow visitors to observe conservation activity in progress.
- iii. Provide a work area, conference room, or other facilities to support the archaeological investigations ongoing at the site.

- archaeological investigations.
- i. Determine which excavated materials and locations should be permanently exposed and conserved and which ought to be re-buried (permanently or temporarily) to ensure their conservation.
- ii. Consider locations for additional protective structures like that at the bath complex, as well as accessible pathways and walkways to allow access while protecting vulnerable materials.
- iii. Develop interpretive materials that assist visitors in understanding not only the physical findings (including those possibly re-buried), but also the process of archaeological investigation and conservation.

## 3. Non-specialist Visitors

Beyond archeology: attract non-specialist visitors.

- a. Attract tourists (Italian and foreign) to Carsulae as part of an itinerary including other places in Umbria: Narni, Terni, Spoleto, Perugia, Assisi, etc.
  - i. Coordinate publicizing the Via Flaminia route, described above.
  - ii. Coordinate with tourism marketing programs of nearby towns and the region.
- b. Promote the reconstructed theater as a venue for performances attracting a local and regional audience.
  - i. Enhance use of the restored theater by identifying appropriate types of events and attracting diverse audiences, as at such ancient theater sites as Siracusa, Taormina, and Ostia Antica, though on a smaller scale.
  - ii. Use the theater venue as a means of increasing public awareness of Carsulae, especially among local communities.
- c. Provide campground facilities for overnight hikers, recreational vehicles, etc. d. Re-introduce recreational opportunities for visitors, especially local community, consistent with protecting heritage areas.

#### 4. Existing and Proposed Infrastructure

Within the Archaeological Park, evaluate the needs for infrastructure and visitor services, including water, food, sanitary facilities, emergency response, in relation to existing visitor infrastructure.

# Archaeological Dig Locations

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a. Consider needs for additional facilities, providing guidance for their location and design. b. Review electrical power at the site and evaluate needs for improved security and supervision through surveillance, etc. c. Consider the design of permanent lighting related to public pathways or recreation areas, access to the theater, nighttime events, etc.

## 5. Making Carsulae Accessible

Minimize barriers to visitors with special needs.

- a. Provide a safe itinerary within the Park for those with mobility, perception, or cognitive disabilities.
- b. Consider walking surfaces, especially on restored Via Flaminia, and evaluate options for accessibility:
  - i. Restoring existing ancient paving stones, adding new material and sand as required to provide quasi-level, accessible surface.
  - ii. Or, providing a fully accessible surface above the partially-exposed original layer, as at Paestum.
- c. Engage specialist inputs on accommodations for the visually and hearing impaired or those with cognitive limitations, and include these suggestions in design of interpretive materials and devices.
- d. Use proposed walkways at bath complex as a case study for other similar installations in other parts of Carsulae.