INTRODUCTION

CARSULAE BATHS RESEARCH PROJECT - SAN GEMINI PRESERVATION STUDIES

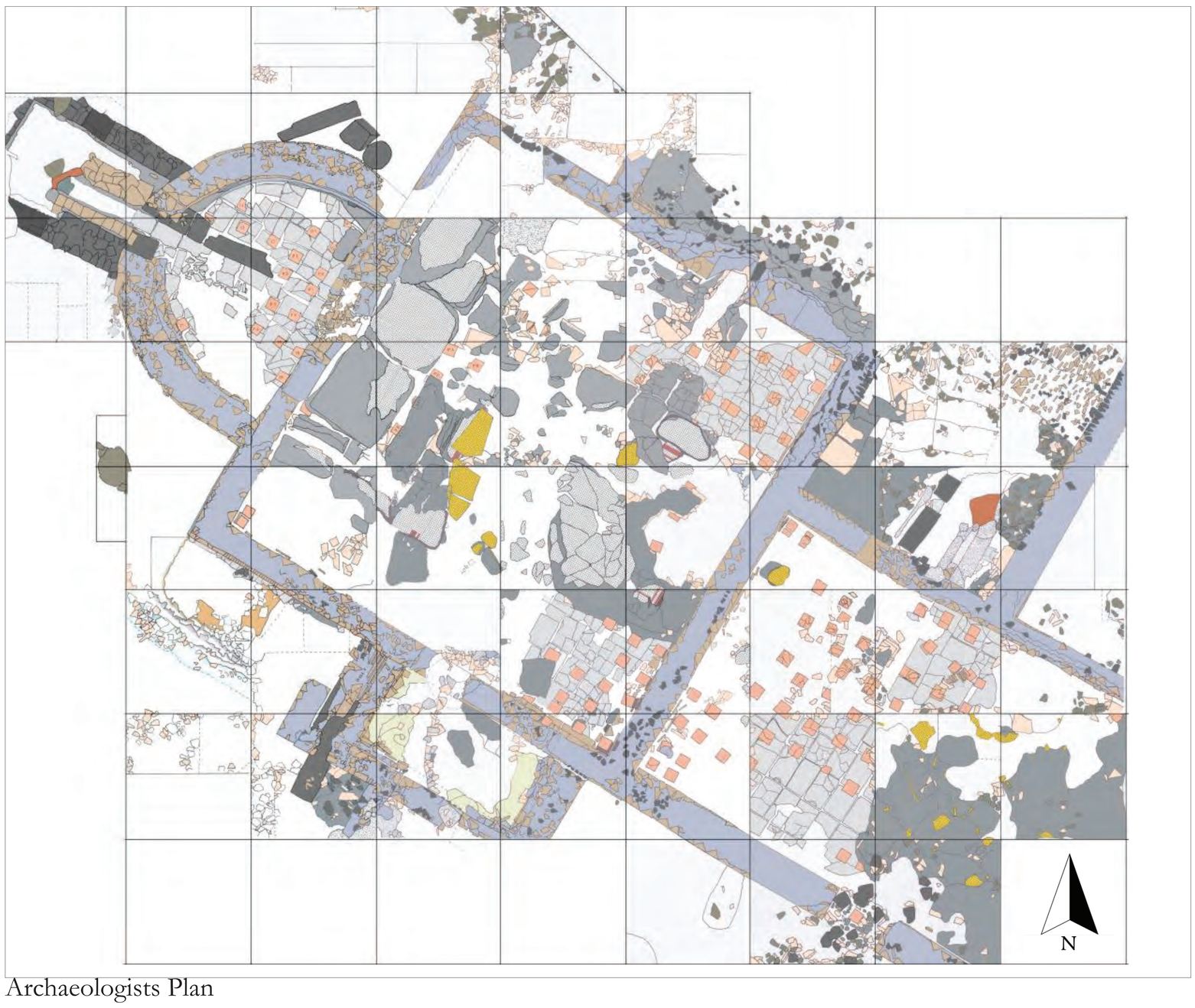
Carsulae is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating archaeological sites associated with Roman antiquity in the region of Umbria. It has the advantage (if also the tragedy) of having been abandoned during antiquity and not built upon subsequently, offering a site relatively undisturbed by later building. Initially, Carsulae appeared to be a small, provincial town that reached the height of its prosperity in the first and second centuries but had been reduced to fragmentary remains in a scenic rural landscape. Upon further investigation, the site appears to be a more elaborate and more interesting urban center, complete with a Forum, basilicas, temples, baths, funerary monuments, a theater and amphitheater, and private houses. Impressive works of sculpture and mosaic floor treatments have emerged, and there is evidence of an extensive and complex infrastructure for the collection, storage, and distribution of water. It was an important stop along the ancient Via Flaminia linking Rome and Fano on the Adriatic coast. Because only a small part of the central area of the town has been excavated, the site holds notable promise for greater discoveries in the future.

Despite the inherent interest and the visual beauty of the landscape, the site is not highly visited. Attracting more visitors and appealing to diverse audiences is a priority of the heritage authorities and the surrounding town jurisdictions. This Master Plan, building upon earlier efforts, proposes developing Carsulae in a larger context, linking it more closely to the geographical and historical setting of southern Umbria and, especially, the role of the ancient Via Flaminia linking many of the region's main urban centers. Opportunities for expanding public awareness of historical and agricultural heritage, recreation, and natural attractions can be further developed around the theme of a "heritage route." At the same time, the Plan seeks to involve the local community, so that they, too, feel that the park is a public benefit.

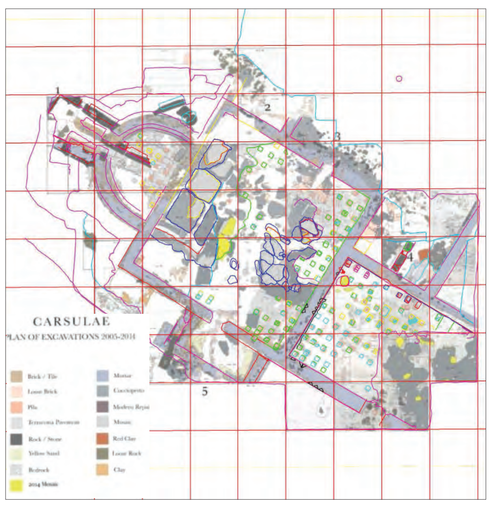
The site of the Archaeological Park can profit from improvements to visitor services, movement to and around the site, interpretation, and security, among other issues. A new entrance and visitor center at the southern end of the park would allow the public to enter along the historic Via Flaminia and understand more clearly the urban plan of the ancient town. A comprehensive interpretive program building on the materials already developed would make the ongoing findings of the active investigations available to increase public understanding and enjoyment of the site.

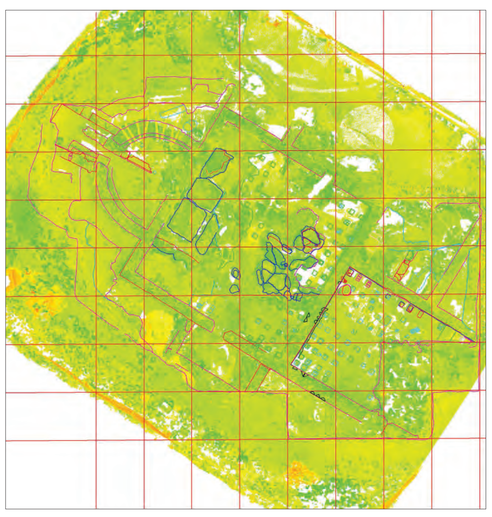
This Master Plan is intended as a document to guide development of the site and its surrounding context over time, prompt discussion and agreement among stakeholders, and accommodate new information as knowledge of the site grows. Soliciting the support of a wide range of audiences and interests, including both public and private entities, will be essential for the successful implementation of the plan.

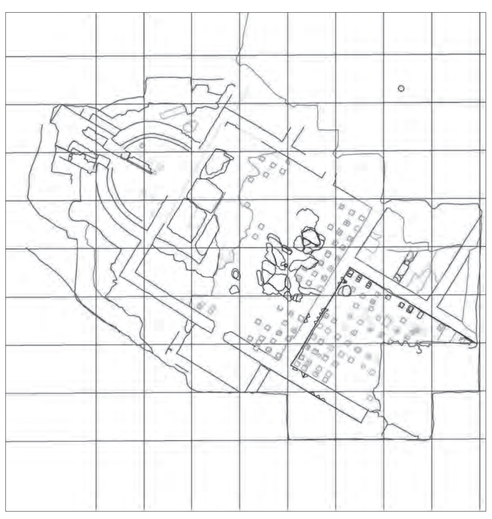
This draft of the Master Plan was prepared by an international team of researchers from the San Gemini Preservation Studies Program (Italy), The University of Notre Dame School of Architecture (USA), Flinders University (Australia), and Cambridge University (United Kingdom) in July 2018. Max Cardillo, San Gemini Preservation Studies; Andrew Wilkinson, Flinders University; Steven Semes, University of Notre Dame; Eric Stalheim, University of Notre Dame; Gioia Casale, Cambridge University

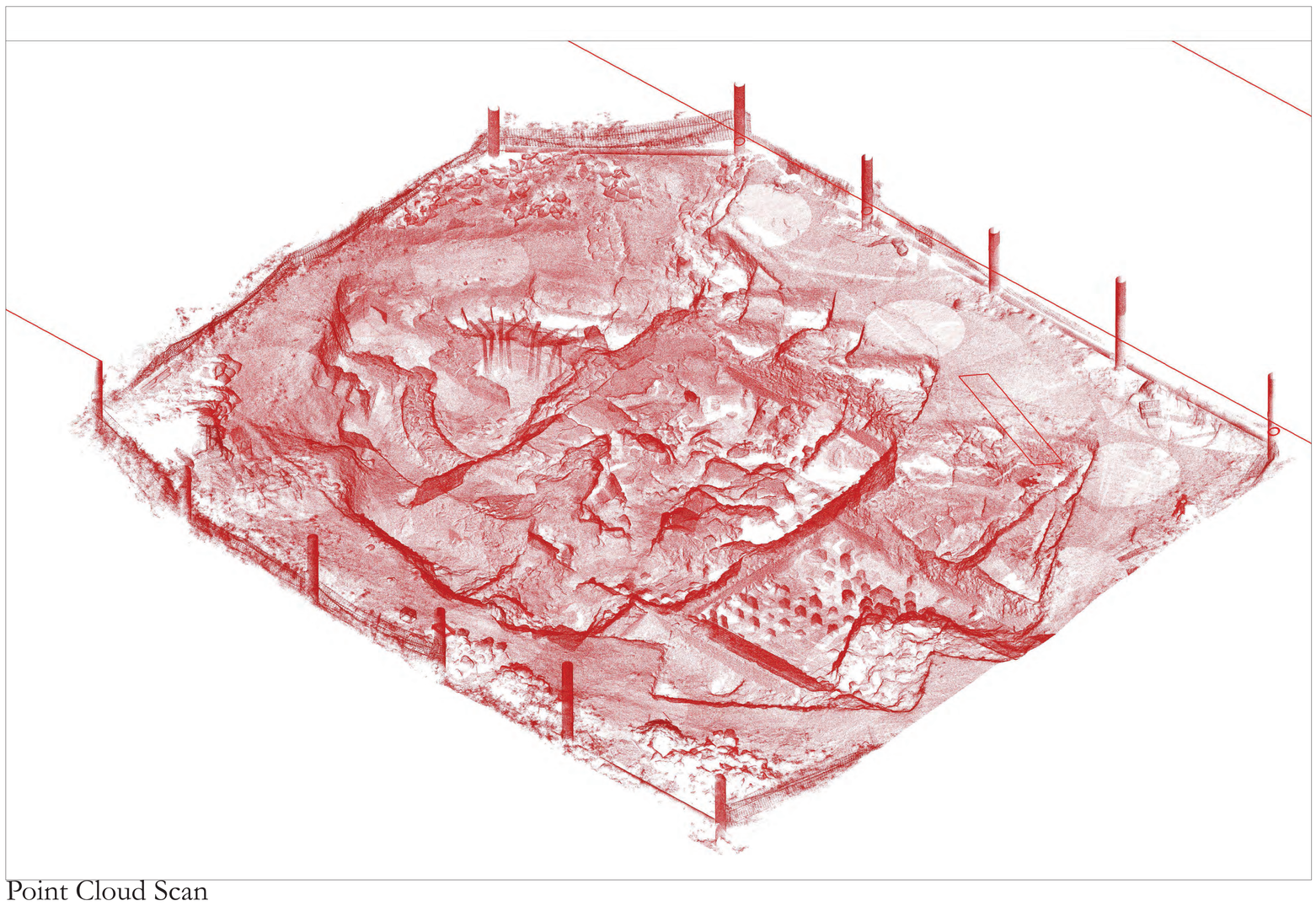


Archaeologists Plan









Point Cloud Scan