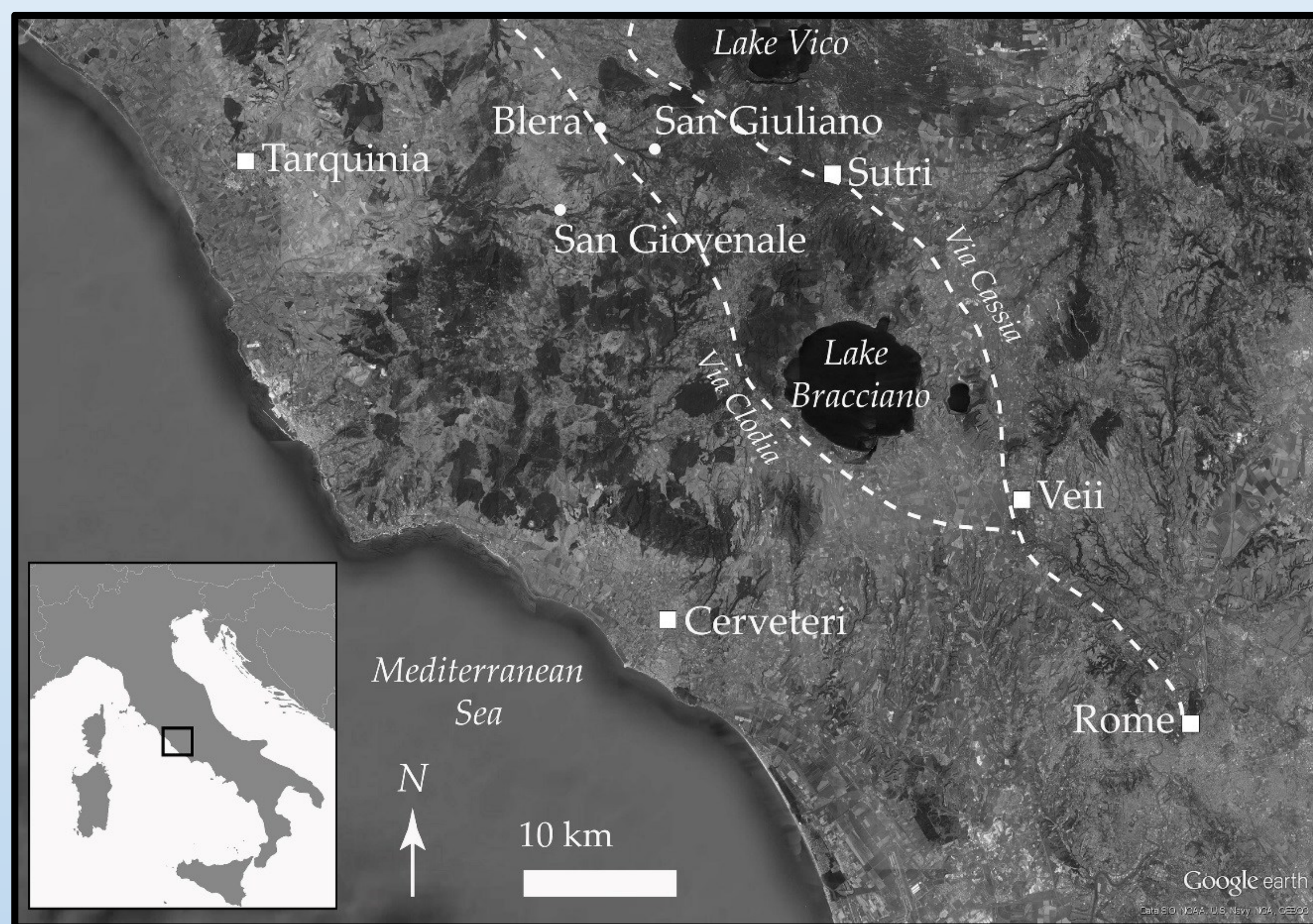


Finds from the Etruscan Necropolis at San Giuliano: Preliminary Results from the 2016 and 2017 Field Surveys and Excavations

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The San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project (SGARP)

In 2016, Baylor University launched the San Giuliano Archaeological Research Project (SGARP) to investigate the history of San Giuliano, a multiphasic site located in the Marturanum Regional Park in northern Lazio, Italy. Through mapping, pedestrian survey, ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey, and excavation of the Etruscan necropolis and Mediaeval habitation area, we aim to reconstruct the long-term changes in human occupation at the site, which was intermittently inhabited from the Bronze Age through to the Mediaeval period (c. 12th century CE).



Northern Lazio from Rome to Lake Vico. Rome and Etruscan cities are indicated by squares, smaller centers are indicated by circles. The Roman Via Clodia and Via Cassia are shown as dashed lines.

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SGARP 2017 fieldschool students and instructors.

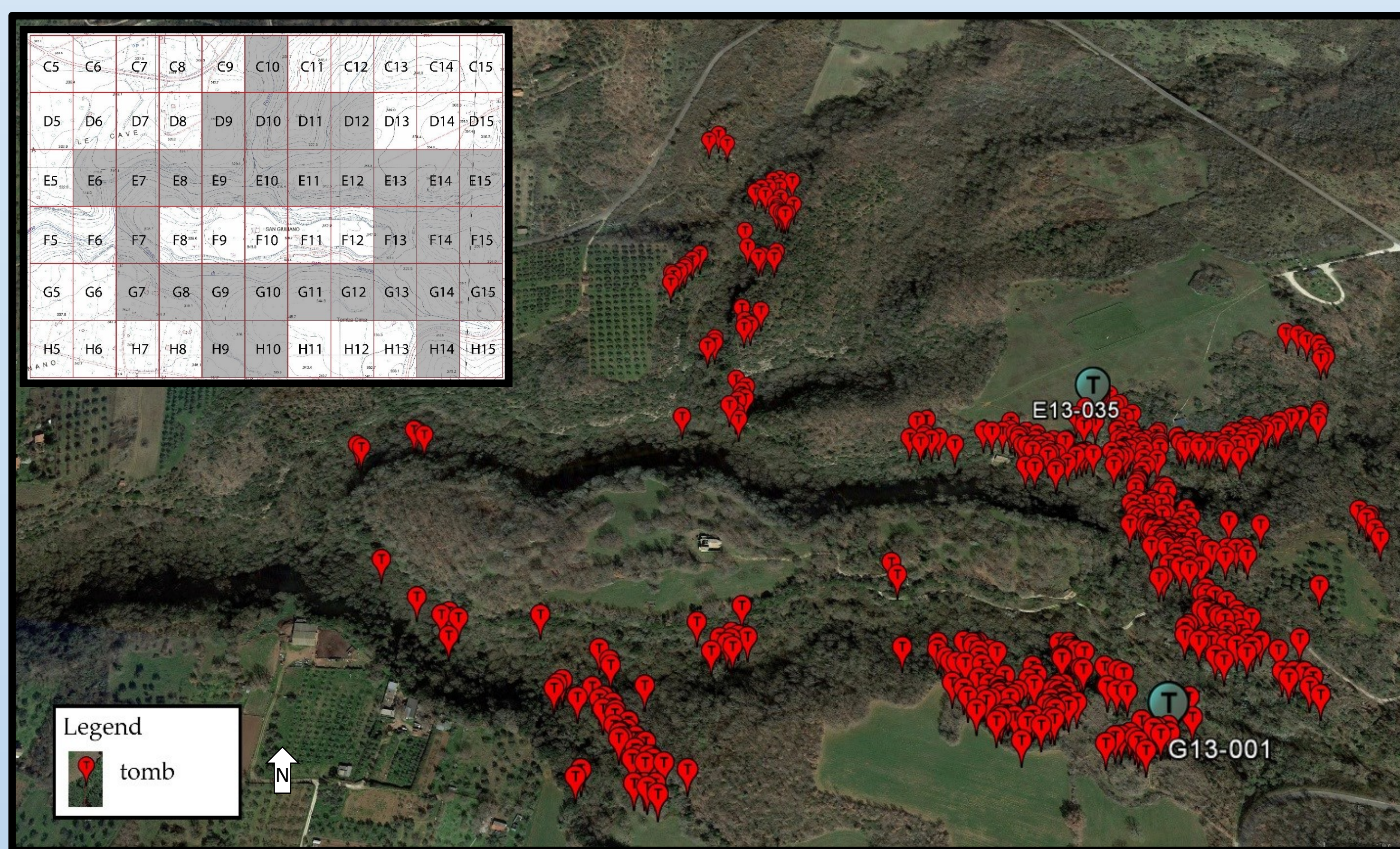
The San Giuliano Etruscan Necropolis

During the 2016 and 2017 seasons, SGARP field-school students located and registered over 500 previously-unmapped Etruscan rock-cut tombs (examples illustrated at right) with a standardized system of GPS, photography, and registration forms. Based on façade typology, tombs registered date from the 8th through 3rd centuries BCE.



Exteriors of tombs E13-035 (L) and G13-001 (R) from the San Giuliano Necropolis.

In addition, excavation of tombs E13-035 and G13-001 (indicated on the map below) recovered 4,351 sherds of bucchero, red impasto, plainware, and ceramica depurata pottery; 1,540 human bone fragments; two pasta invetriata beads; one glass pendant; and 12 bronze and iron fragments. The stratigraphy of both tombs has been compromised due to modern looting activity, resulting in highly-fragmentary finds.



Location of the surveyed tombs recorded during the 2016 season. The inset at the top left shows the nomenclature used for survey grid squares. Each square measures 5 seconds in both latitude and longitude, and surveyed grids are in gray.

Human Remains

Based on the number of left tibiae recovered from tomb G13-035, the minimum number of individuals (MNI) interred therein is 12. In addition, four fetal bones (three of which are illustrated at right) were recovered during the 2017 excavations. They belong to two fetuses, c. 16 and c. 18 weeks in utero, indicating that at least two pregnant women, therefore, were interred in the tomb.



San Giuliano Necropolis, tomb G13-001, right fetal tibia and femur, c. 16 weeks in utero.

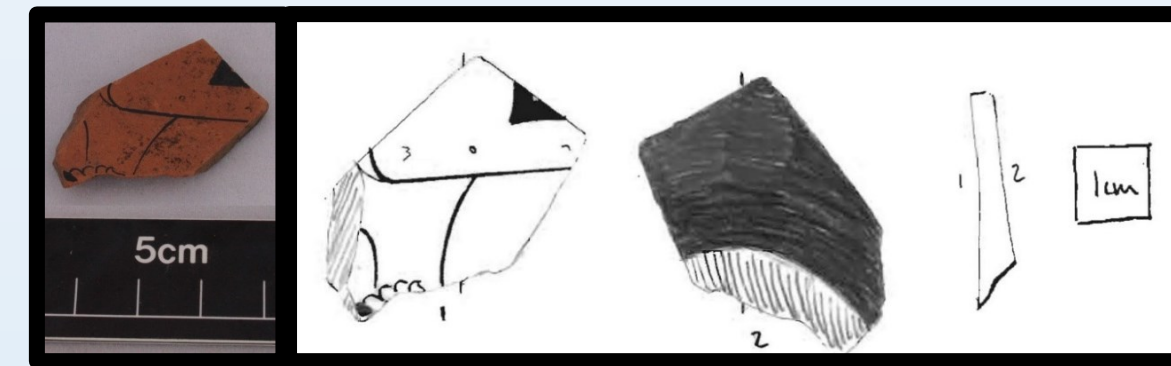


San Giuliano Necropolis, tomb G13-001, anterior right fetal femur, c. 18 weeks in utero.

Tomb E13-035 produced only one bone fragment: a largely-intact, adult left femur. The paucity of osteological evidence from the tomb is likely due to geological factors, including the clay-like soil.

Ceramics

The 84 ceramic survey finds from the necropolis represent Etruscan red-figure and bucchero; Attic black- and red-figure; and Roman and Mediaeval plainware vessels. A 5th century BCE Attic red-figure kylix body sherd (illustrated at right) preserves a retrograde KΑΛΟΣ inscription on the tondo.



San Giuliano Necropolis, sector F13-041, SF-2016-002.

Two complete vessels were recovered from tomb E13-035, including a Rasmussen type 3a/Ramage type 4E chalice (illustrated at right) datable to the last quarter of the 7th century through mid 6th century BCE. Additional ceramic evidence confirms a date of c. 600 BCE for the tomb.



San Giuliano Necropolis, tomb E13-035, Context 7.

Tomb G13-001 has produced a rich ceramic assemblage, including fragments of closed- and open-form Attic black-figure vessels datable to the mid-6th century BCE. Evidence of at least two large, red impasto pithoi were recovered as well, including one with at least two abstract figural decorations (an example is illustrated at right).



San Giuliano Necropolis, tomb G13-001, Context 16.

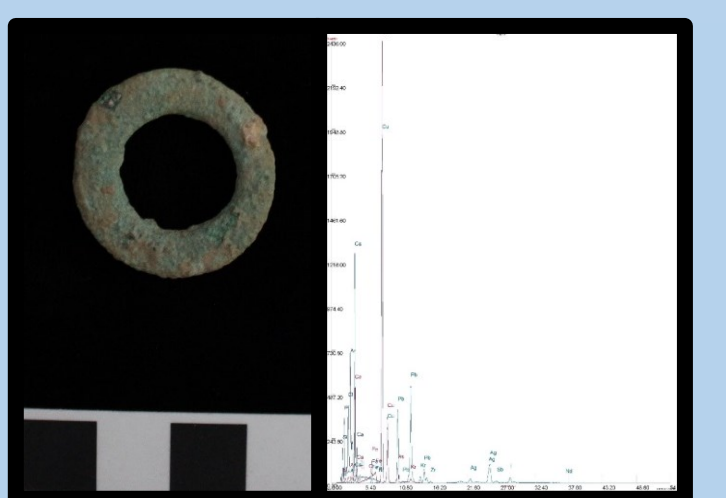
Small Finds

Two pasta invetriata beads with concentric circle decoration and a pale-blue glass pendant (illustrated at right) were recovered from tomb G13-001 during the 2017 field season. In addition, three spindle whorls were recovered from tomb G13-001.



San Giuliano Necropolis, tomb G13-001, Contexts 20, 22, and 30, respectively.

Along with other metal fragments, a bronze ring (illustrated at right) was recovered from tomb G13-001. Multispectral analysis utilizing a ThermoFisher Scientific Niton XL3t GOLDD+ portable X-Ray Fluorescence analyzer (pXRF) confirms that it is an example of Etruscan leaded bronze.



San Giuliano Necropolis, tomb G13-001, Context 21.

Future Directions

The distribution of tombs suggests that the San Giuliano Etruscan settlement may have been on the east side of the plateau, where we have been excavating the Mediaeval fortification. In upcoming seasons, we will investigate the relationship between the necropolis and Etruscan settlement of San Giuliano through excavation of additional tombs, GPR survey on the plateau, and analysis of pre-Mediaeval materials from plateau excavations.