



**POLITECNICO
DI TORINO**

Honors thesis

Master's Degree in Architecture Heritage
Preservation and Enhancement

Abstract

**The Theatres and the Amphitheatres
of the Roman Britannia:
hypothesis of conservation and enhancement**

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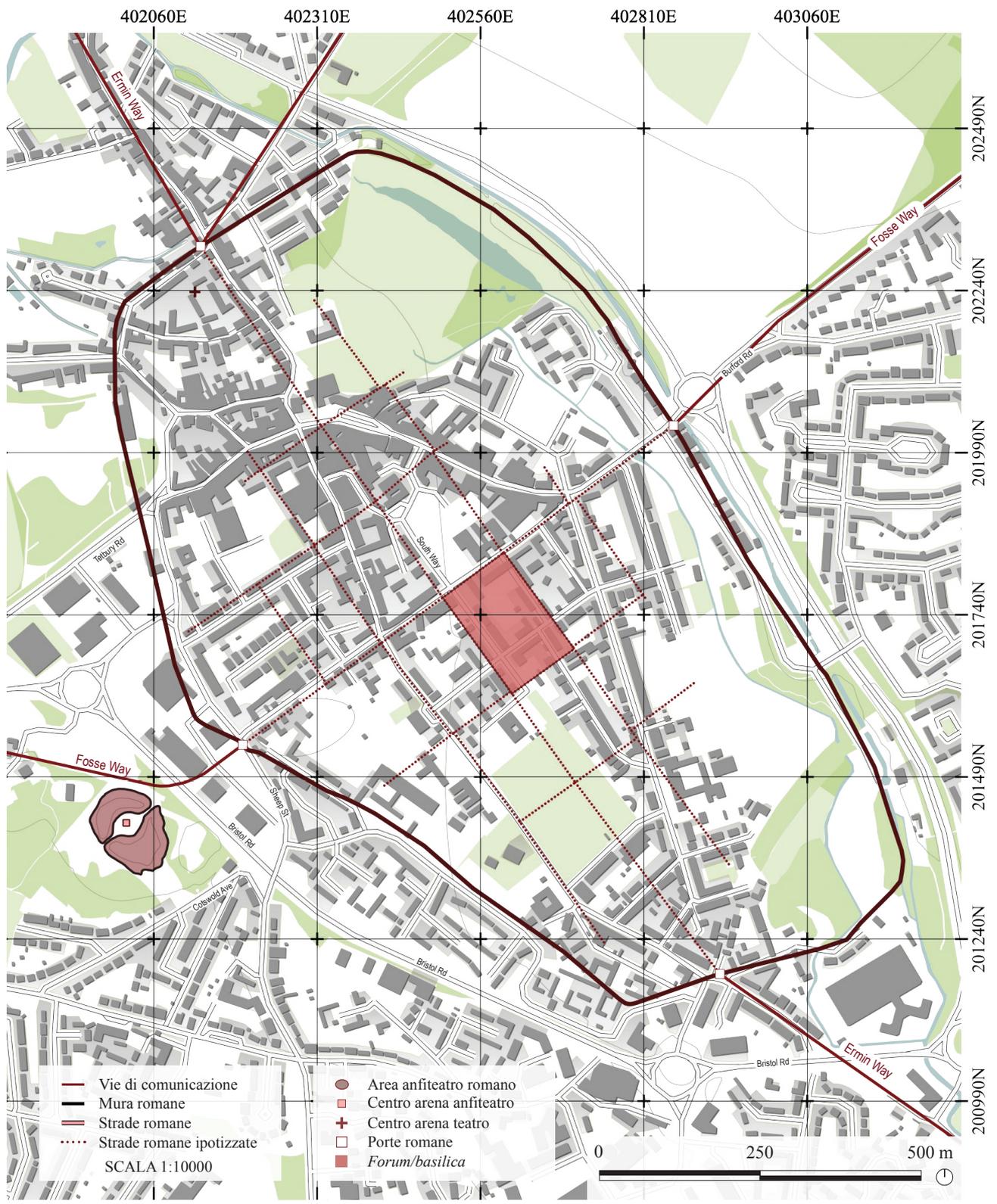
Greg Woolf

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The research is part of a more extensive study, coordinated by Prof. Emanuele Romeo, and takes the form of a graduate thesis on Roman theatres and amphitheatres in the territories of the current United Kingdom. The aim was to classify these buildings, but also to analyse the historical events of the cities of Roman foundation, through studies that have made it possible to propose guidelines that would help in the conservation and enhancement strategies of playful and theatrical buildings in Great Britain.

The knowledge phase analysed the geography of the territory and the history of the region's first inhabitants as a prerequisite for understanding the subsequent Roman occupation. The particular situation of Britain, on the border of the Empire, given the presence of the *limes*, is a symptom of a difference that is demonstrated in the infrastructures and in the first urban forms. And it is precisely from the analysis of the centres that the overlap between what was achieved by tribal populations and what was added with the romanization process emerges. The knowledge of this complex socio-political and territorial stratification was possible thanks to a methodological approach that used different tools pertaining to the disciplines of restoration and geomatics (GIS). In the reconstruction of the urban morphology both of the forts and of the Roman cities, the evidence and latencies of the main monuments (forum/basilica, temples, walls, etc.) are highlighted, through a georeferencing of the Roman maps on the current ones, to create, on the one hand, a global information base of the Roman heritage for which to make proposals for conservation and enhancement (fig. 1), on the other hand, to identify the play and entertainment buildings, whether they are well known to critics, still little known, or even latent. The GIS platform has proved to be an excellent tool for enhancement, as a tool for archiving and analysing the contents of this research as demonstrated by the creation of a Web-Gis application, which allows: to spread the research itself by outlining methods study and investigation approaches; to provide an accompanied and shared reading of the text; to propose an enhancement of the playful and theatrical buildings of Britain (fig. 2). On this platform, in fact, it has been and will be possible to enter information related to the management and maintenance of individual buildings, as well as the entire methodological intervention process, where necessary.

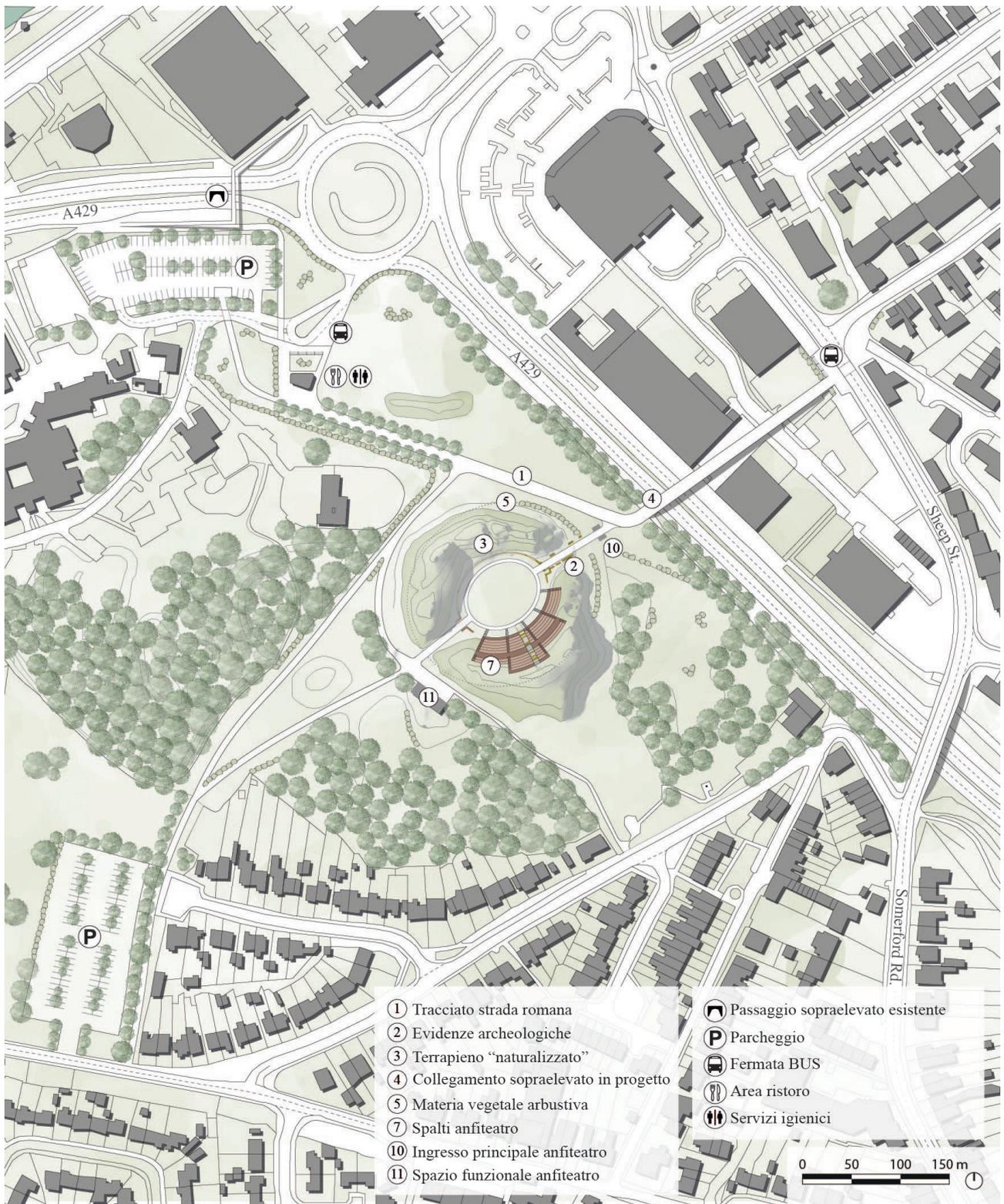
As an example, the choice fell on the Cirencester Amphitheatre, for which there are already proposals for enhancement by the Town Council. This made it possible to put into practice an analysis and intervention methodology, which can be re-proposed in other contexts and on other buildings, although with crucial differences due to the nature of the places and the archaeological consistency of the structures examined. Specifically, it was noted: the absence of links between the monument, the urban context and the landscape system; the little attention paid to the materiality of the archaeological ruins; the scarce valorisation, in the face of a series of archaeological excavations conducted in the past, of the archaeological evidence. Therefore, an attempt was made to bring out the ruins more than the other Roman emergencies present in the city and to propose a tourist and social use (recreational and cultural events) which, in compliance with the requirements of minimum intervention, reversibility, recognisability and compatibility, among the modern materials and techniques with ancient materials and respect for historical stratification, would enhance the archaeological evidence still present and the historicised image of the great bank which currently has a great landscape value (fig. 3).



1. Fig. 97, p. 206. Illustration of one of the eleven Roman cities analysed: overlap of the main Roman elements using the QGIS software on the current city of Cirencester, starting from the Roman map of the same (illustrated on page 98).



2. Fig. 116, p. 237. Typological classification of recreational buildings and for shows in Britain.
 Web-Gis: <https://learn-students.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/interactivelegend/index.html?appid=e4d299a5a3e347ac895dce0c193f0add>



3. Fig. 242, p. 446. Master plan project of the Cirencester Amphitheatre Complex.

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