

nymphaeum is the only known surviving example of a signed monument which dates to such an important period in Roman architecture, indicating the importance of the monument and the scientific value of the research which is being undertaken.



Laser scan data of the nymphaeum

Following a successful funding application made by the Comune di Segni to the Provincia di Roma in 2013, the monument was brought into the care of the local authority and will now be opened to the public. In late June 2013 the first phase of work took place: a detailed laser scanning of the monument to record its state of preservation and provide a precise plan of the *nymphaeum*. The work was undertaken by James Miles of the Archaeological Computing Research Group of the University of Southampton using a Faro Focus 3D laser scanner.

In January 2014 a first season of excavation was conducted. Previous illicit work had brought to light the back wall of the fountain, revealing two rows of 3 niches, decorated as wild natural caves by a thick plaster, enriched with pumice stones, sea shells and blue Egyptian glass. The new excavation revealed a single row of 3 niches on each side, with the fountain of the *nymphaeum* emptying directly into a pool, constructed from a thick red layer of *cocciopesto*, which completely fills the area within the alcove, retained in front by a low wall. The structure was in use for a considerable period, and was finally in-filled in the late 6th – early 7th century AD. Immediately to the east of the *nymphaeum* is a large cistern, still fed by a natural spring, which would have supplied the fountain. The surrounding area will be examined by a georadar survey to understand if this was an isolated monument or part of a much larger complex.



The excavation of the nymphaeum

The subsequent phase of work will see the removal of the modern illegal structure currently enclosing the monument, and its protection with a modern light structure. The final phase of the work will be the cleaning and restoration of the monument, which will be completed by the end of 2014. The excavation is jointly conducted by the Archaeological Museum of Segni and the British School at Rome, with the support of the Soprintendenza per I Beni Archeologici del Lazio. Francesco Maria Cifarelli, Federica Colaiacomo (Archaeological Museum of Segni), Stephen Kay (British School at Rome), Letizia Ceccarelli (Cambridge University), Camilla Panzieri and Dimosthenis Kosmopoulos (Independent Archaeologists) Websites: www.bsr.ac.uk and www.museosegni.it Twitter: @segniproject F.M. Cifarelli, "Un ninfeo repubblicano a Segni con la firma di Q. Mutius architetto", in *Tra Lazio e Campania*, Quaderni del Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Antichità, Università di Salerno, 16, 1995, pp. 159-188 F.M. Cifarelli, "10. Il Ninfeo", in F.M. Cifarelli – F. Colaiacomo, *Segni antica e medievale: una guida archeologica*, Segni 2011, pp. 71-75 F. Zevi, "Le élites municipali, Mario e l'architettura del tempo", in *Cahiers Glotz*, VII, 1996, pp. 229-252