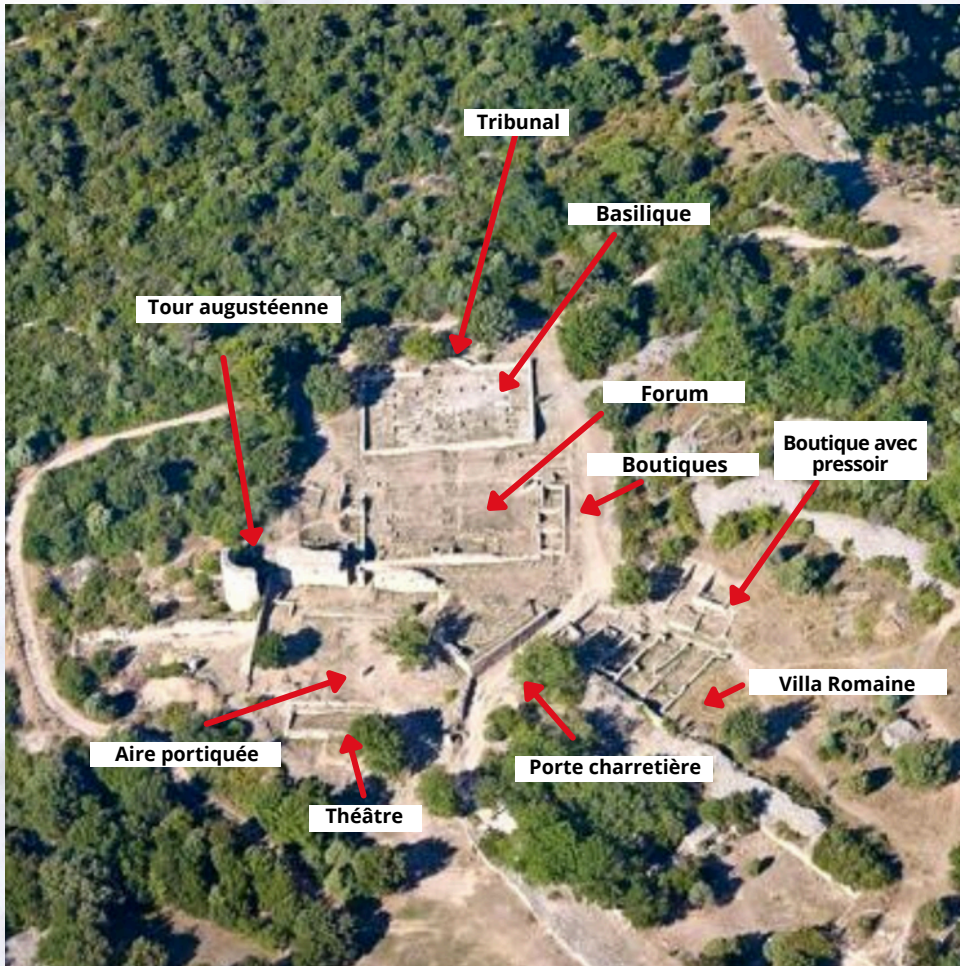


OPPIDUM

le CAMP de CÉSAR

1000 ans d'occupation
du 5ème Siècle avant J-C. jusqu'au 6ème siècle après JC



Caesar's Camp, 264 meters above sea level.

It is one of the largest sites of fortified height of Southern Gaul, with an intramural area of 18 hectares.

The presence of important water sources on the north side, known as Valliquières (the valley of water), was a determining factor in the decision of the implementation of the site at this position.

The Camp is a promontory fort (a natural stronghold) typical of the oppida of southern France. Its dominant position facing the Rhône at the confluence of the Cèze and Tave valleys allowed it to control access to the Cevennes and the interior Languedoc.

Caesar's Camp reserved the bulk of the population, but especially trade and industry

PHASE 1 – THE GALLIC VILLAGE, 5TH CENTURY B.C.

On the eastern edge, defended by a dry stone enclosure with quadrangular towers, the Gallic village settled. The rampart, having a defence function but also a land retention function, is still partly there. Its maximum visible height is 2.5m and its width is 4.5m on average.



The urban perimeter is delimited by an area of 13 hectares, considerable for the time. The same system is found on the oppida « St Vincent » de Gaujac and « St Pierre de Castres » in Tresques.

PHASE 2 – BEGINNING OF ROMANIZATION, 1ST CENTURY B.C.

After being unoccupied for almost 3 centuries, a new enclosure was created at that time around the old one, adding 5 hectares to the agglomeration. The oppidum seems to have more power and seems to play a protective role. The occupation was intensive from the first half of the 1st century B.C. The oppidum* seems to acquire more power and now have an important defensive role. The occupation was intensive from the first half of the 1st century B.C.

Two important carriage doors spaced 119 meters apart are built at this time, with a length of 6.5m and a width of 3.5m. Two towers frame the doors, the only ones attested to the 1st century B.C. in the Gard. These new facilities testify to intense traffic on the Camp at that time.

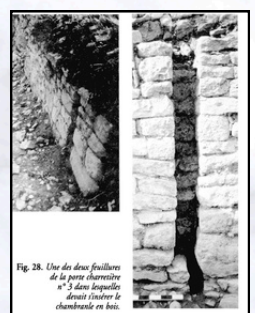


Fig. 27. Porte charretière n° 3 au camp de Bagnères
Fig. 28. Une des deux tourelles de la porte charretière n° 3 dans laquelle devait s'insérer la charretière en bois.

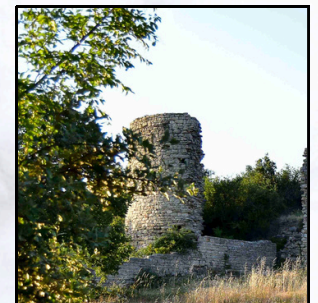
PHASE 3 – AUGUSTAN PERIOD, FROM 1ST CENTURY B.C. TO YEAR 14

Remarkable urban transformation. A new agglomeration was born in the place of the Gallic village and the dry stone ramparts were totally integrated into the the new urbanism.

The Augustan rampart attests to the privileged position the city occupies in the hierarchy of Roman agglomerations of the Languedoc hinterland.

THE ROUND TOWER

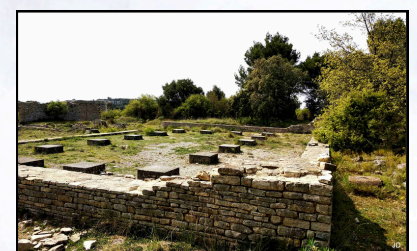
With a diameter of 9 meters and a height estimated at more than 8 meters. It was certainly a prestigious building, occupying a central place in the monumental ornament of the city.



THE SQUARE TOWER

A quadrangular* tower occupying an area of at least 100m².

A work with a defensive vocation, its southern position on the edge of the oppidum makes it possible to embrace the entire rhodanian furrow, offering a clear advantage in the surveillance of the surroundings



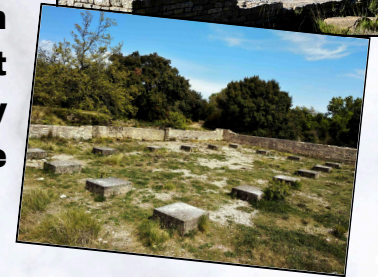
THE CARRIAGE DOOR

Four phases of construction and remodelling are discernible, proving that the passage was used for many years. The paving of the long corridor still partially exists.

Large flat limestone stones cover a central gutter dug that collected wastewater from the intramural neighbourhoods, allowing evacuation outside the city. The closing system is marked by a deep vertical groove to contain the door frame.

PHASE 4 – THE PRINCIPATE, 1ST CENTURY A.D.

The city had an important and enviable political and economic power. Public buildings appeared : forum, basilica, court, theatre. The products of exploitation (including wine) could be exported from the port establishment of the old Canet in Chusclan, in full activity during the 1st and 2nd century A.D. The city of the Principate seemed to have a political autonomy.



THE FORUM – BASILICA COMPLEX

The city had an important and enviable political and economic power. Public buildings appeared : forum, basilica, court, theatre. The products of exploitation (including wine) could be exported from the port establishment of the old Canet in Chusclan, in full activity during the 1st and 2nd century A.D. The city of the Principate seemed to have a political autonomy.

The forum is almost square shaped, with 26.25 x 24.25m, for an area of 643m². The basilica is welded to the forum, measuring 26 x 16.50m, for an area of 429m². There is a 17 x 7.5m nave, surrounded by a 3.5m portico.

The basilica, acting as a court, hosted the seat of the judicial activities of the city.

THE PORTICOED AREA SOUTH OF THE FORUM

At the foot of the Augustan rampart, between the round tower then condemned and the carriage door still used, is another portico of the same width as the forum's (3,60m). It is an open area porticoed at least on three sides that may have theatrical and/or oratory vocation, confirmed by the discovery of a corridor that probably served as a curtain pit. It is an open area porticoed at least on three sides that may have theatrical and/or oratory vocation, confirmed by the discovery of a corridor that probably served as a curtain pit.

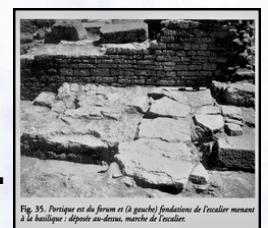


Fig. 35. Portique est du forum et (à gauche) fondations de l'écarter menant à la basilique - aligné au-dessus, mur de l'écarter.

PHASE 5 – UNTIL 600 A.D.

The necropolis on the oppidum demonstrate a large and structured population. The houses are installed in the urban perimeter of the old city.

A large pit used for metallurgical activities was discovered in the outer corner of the Augustan rampart formed by the curtain walls, a sign of a clear economic dynamism at that time.

During the 6th century, small shops appeared, grafted to the east wall of the forum opening onto the square. The forum and the basilica then lost their function to become a commercial center.

OCCUPATION DE L'OPPIDIUM DU CAMP DE CÉSAR



PHASE 1 Du 5ème S au 4ème S av JC	PHASE 2 Début du 1er siècle av JC	PHASE 3 Du 1er siècle av JC à l'an 14	PHASE 4 1er siècle ap JC	PHASE 5 600 après JC
VILLE GAULOISE - remparts encore existants aujourd'hui - 13 hectares de périmètre urbain - Ouverture sur le monde méditerranéen	NOUVELLE ENCEINTE - Augmentation du périmètre urbain de 5 ha - Rôle protecteur de la cité - Début de la romanisation - Nouveaux remparts	EPOQUE AUGUSTEENNE - Romanisation totale - Nouvelle agglomération - Place importante dans les agglomérations romaines - Echanges commerciaux intenses, liaisons fluviales importantes via le port à Chusclan - Construction de la tour ronde	LE HAUT EMPIRE - Puissance politique et économique - Construction de la Basilique, du Forum... - Développement de l'artisanat - Exportation via le port à Chusclan	BAS EMPIRE - L'agglomération perdure - Dynamisme économique - Apparition de boutiques au mur du forum qui devient un centre à vocation commerciale, tout comme la basilique

GAULE CHELTNIQUE

-125 / -117 Les romains s'installent dans le Sud de la Gaule

GAULE ROMAINE

-52
 Siège d'Alésia - gaulois vaincus par César



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chute de l'empire romain d'occident