

On one hand this fact has allowed the conservation of his rural look, on the other hand it determined huge areas of environmental degradation. The Ancient Appian Way, from the Ciampino border towards Marino, is crossed (after about 500 metres) by via di Capanne di Marino and reaches the New Appian Way at the residential area of S.Maria delle Mole, built at the end of the 60s.

Near the Mausoleum, known as La Mola, the railway crosses the axis of the Ancient Way. The railway, called Pio Latina, went from Rome to Velletri. It was inaugurated in 1862 and then prolonged until it reached Ceprano in Ciociaria. At 150 metres from the railway tracks, the ancient way is interrupted again by viale della Repubblica that joins with the new Appian way. These works were carried out by ANAS at the end of the 1970s, together with the initial stretch of the road at Frattocchie, which covered the last extant portion of the Appian Way in this area.



FOR INFORMATION OR GUIDED TOURS:

Info Point Frattocchie open for guided tours or Info point Santa Maria delle Mole open Sunday from 9.30 to 13. Info: info@legambienteappia.eu.

HOW TO ARRIVE:

With the Car, for Info Point Frattocchie take the Appia Nuova towards Velletri, at KM 19 to the right before the gas station; for Santa Maria delle Mole take the Appia Nuova towards Velletri then turn to via della Repubblica.

With the Train, F.S. Roma Line - Velletri Santa Maria delle Mole stop.
With the Bus, Cotral Roma Velletri or Roma Nettuno from Anagnina Station at Palaghiaccio- Santa Maria delle Mole stop.

SOPRINTENDENZA
ARCHEOLOGIA DEL LAZIO
E DELL'ETRURIA MERIDIONALE



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VIA APPIA X E XI MIGLIO



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THE APPIAN WAY TOWARDS THE ROMAN CASTLES

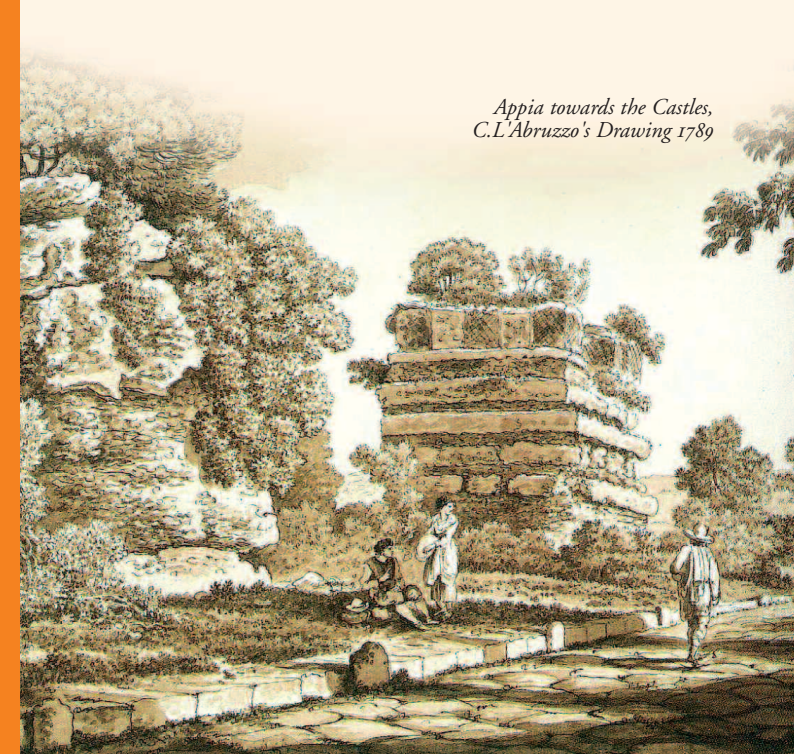
In the Municipalities of Ciampino and Marino, where the road starts to climb toward the Castles, the extra-urban trail of the Ancient Appian Way occasionally passes close to vineyards and olive tree groves, that testify a rural past still alive in the memory of the people.

Here is possible to find the elements that refine the present landscape of the Ancient Appian Way, in all its natural, historical, archaeological, agricultural and urban components.

In the mid 1800 Luigi Canina, with the objective to recover the remains of ancient monuments along the trail, saw to the restoration of the way.

At the beginning of the 1900' the urban section of the Way was renovated multiple times until the G.R.A (Rome's ring road) was built, and with it, in the 60' the ancient Way was paved with asphalt. The extra-urban section of the way was never paved.

*Appia towards the Castles,
C.L'Abruzzo's Drawing 1789*



1. Monte di Terra Tomb

In the Municipality of Ciampino, by the 9th mile of the Appian way, the imposing mass of the flint concrete core of a circular tomb can be seen, it is known as Monte di Terra (Mount of earth). Its diameter is over 30 meters. The monument was built upon a large quadrangular Peperino stone podium, numerous blocks are preserved and can be seen along the Way.

2. Tomb with Sarcophagus

After crossing Via Capanne di Marino, on your right side is preserved the Tomb with Sarcophagus. The chamber was rectangularly shaped and a limestone sarcophagus had been placed crossways along the southern wall. The sarcophagus had a "pillow" where the head of the deceased could rest. Observing the building technique, the Tomb can be dated to the Imperial Age.

3. Greek-cross plan Tomb

Further on, you may find the remains of the so-called Greek-cross plan Tomb. This Tomb has a quadrangular plan, with rectangular recesses on three sides which contained funerary urns: a glass one containing the remains of two deceased and a ceramic one with the ashes of a boy in it. Because of how it has been constructed, the building is dated to the 3rd century AD.

4. Burial Mound

On the left side of the road, right before crossing the Fosso (the Ditch), coming from Ciampino, you will find a tomb erected on a square podium made out of Peperino stone blocks, surmounted by a cone-shaped concrete core.

5. Fosso delle Cornacchiole

You shall now cross the Fosso delle Cornacchiole (Cornacchiole's Ditch), a right-hand tributary to the Fosso del Vallerano. It originates from the western slopes of the Albian Hills, near Fontanile Monaci, under the name of Fosso del Fiorano. Flowing downhill, it changes name to Fosso delle Cornacchiole and outside the Park area it becomes Fosso delle Cecchinola. After crossing the Appian Way, it flows through a number of agricultural estates.

6. Giovannino's Tomb

On the right-hand side of the Appian Way, near Km 18.250 approximately, a square-based *Opus Caementicium* (Roman concrete) tomb is preserved, into which four niches were to open.

The entrance to the monument was located on the opposite side of the Appian Way and led to a rectangular burial chamber. The roofing had, probably, a pyramidal or conic shape with an *Opus Quadratum* lining.

7. La Mola Tomb

Further on the left you may see the remains of La Mola, a circular burial building, with a 23 metres diameter made of *Opus Caementicium* covered by *Opus Reticulatum* (Reticulated Work). The Greek-cross plan chamber is in *Opus Quadratum*, with barrel vaults over the niches and a pavilion vault covering the central portion. The different construction techniques make it possible to date the monument to the late Republican Age, with extensions and masonry dating to the middle of the Imperial Age.

8. Butto

A few metres from the railway bridge, to the left, an area where broken Peperino blocks were dumped was discovered. They filled a room partly located under the road level. Here, two crouching Peperino stone lions were found; the best preserved one has his paw resting under the head of a fawn. The lions are believed to be decorations of a dismantled tomb, possibly dating back to the 1st century AD.

9. Building with Thermal Baths

Between the railway bridge and via della Repubblica a well-preserved stone-slab paving was unearthed for about 100 metres. To the south-west, the road expands into a sort of paved square, facing it there is a thermal building with at least 15 rooms, some of

which featuring heating tubules and traces of marble lining. The presence of a large threshold, showing signs of heavy wearing and leading to the road, suggests that these were public baths. The baths had been probably built here as a result of natural sulphur and gas emissions, as well as mineral waters.

10. Tabernae

Once you have crossed via della Repubblica, on the left side, you can clearly see some facilities which probably belonged to the *Mutatio ad Decimum*, an intermediate post house for changing horses along the Appian Way before reaching *Mansio di Aricia*, where one could rest for the night. The facilities (probably *Tabernae*) were built during the first half of the 2nd Century AD and then abandoned towards the middle of the 5th Century AD.

Since 2000, the Roman Archaeological Group has been conducting a research campaign in this area

11. Tomb with Secchi's Tower

Very close to the Frattocchie, on the left-hand side you may see the remains of funerary enclosures and the Tomb with Tower. This is an *Opus Caementicium* chamber tomb, originally lined with square Peperino stone or marble blocks. The concrete core of the tomb remains, which had to have a quadrangular plan or, more likely, a circular one. The chamber, like the access corridor, is covered by a barrel vault and is made out of Peperino-stone *Opus Quadratum*. There are three sides with as many recesses, containing ceramic urns for

the ashes of the dead. Above the funerary monument a quadrangular *Opus latericium* ("brick work") tower was built, probably making use of an pre-existing medieval watchtower. The structure has been used, in 1751, by Jesuit fathers Boscovich and Maire as final **baseline's vertex** of the geodesic calculations (realized for the measurement and the design of the territory) that they ran along the Ancient Appian Way with the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, by the 3rd mile, as the starting point. During the restoration works of the Appian Way, realized in the mid-1800s by Luigi Canina, Jesuit Father Secchi too measured a geodesic base from Cecilia Metella tomb to the Tower by the Frattocchie. In 2013 the manhole and the frame of Baseline's vertex B, the big buried stone that signal this point, were discovered.

