



Préfecture de la région
Île-de-France
Direction régionale des Affaires
culturelles
Service régional de l'Archéologie

Press release
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Vanves reveals its Roman and mediaeval past

A team from the Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives (Inrap) has found important Gallo-Roman and Mediaeval remains in the town of Vanves. A preventive excavation, curated by the State, is being carried out prior to the construction of a residential building.

In 1999, a substantial Gallo-Roman bath-house was excavated on an adjoining plot of land. At that time only part of the construction was visible. The complete plan and the exact dimensions of the baths have still to be discovered.

Today, a vast peripheral gallery, which can be dated to the 2nd or 3rd century AD, is being excavated. This gallery encloses a space whose nature is as yet unknown: simple courtyard or public square? In late Antiquity, a group of modest dwellings were installed here. During the Merovingian and Carolingian periods, the site was taken over by craftsmen. For example there are four highly interesting Early medieval potter's kilns on the site.

The results of the Rue Gaudray excavation will help to characterise Roman Vanves: *villa*, *vicus* (quarter or district) or suburban sanctuary of Lutetia...

Not so long ago, the earliest information known about Vanves came from a late 10th century document, the charter of King Robert the Pious, which mentions a few acres of vineyards at Venva. Excavation has revealed the town's Roman origins, a thousand years earlier.

Inrap

With more than 1,800 collaborators and researchers Inrap is the largest French archaeological organization and one of the foremost in Europe. A public research establishment, it carries out most of the archaeological evaluation and excavations in France. Within the framework of national and regional planning policy, it acts on behalf of private and public developers (local and regional authorities, Motorway companies, French railroad system . . .). More than 2,500 excavations are undertaken every year in mainland France and in the D.O.M. (French overseas departments).

Developer: RD Promotion – Vinci Immobilier

Curation : Regional archaeology service(Drac Île-de-France)

Archaeological research: Inrap

Site director: Xavier Peixoto, Inrap

Contacts

Direction interrégionale Centre-Île-de-France

Chargée du Développement culturel de la Communication

Sophie Jahnichen: 06 84 80 73 58

sophie.jahnichen@inrap.fr

www.inrap.fr

