

Session 368: Archaeology of Movement

#### A NEW REGIONAL MIGRATION APPROACH IN ARCHAEOLOGY

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#### RURAL MIGRATION IN NORMANDY (FRANCE) DURING THE ROMAN PERIOD

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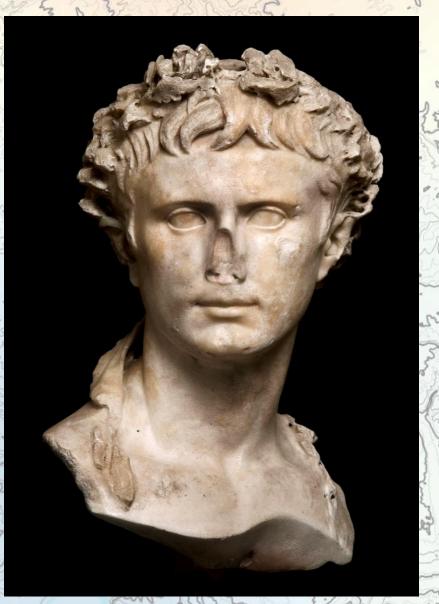
environnementales

A lot of actual French towns have been created by the emperor Augustus, 2 000 years ago.

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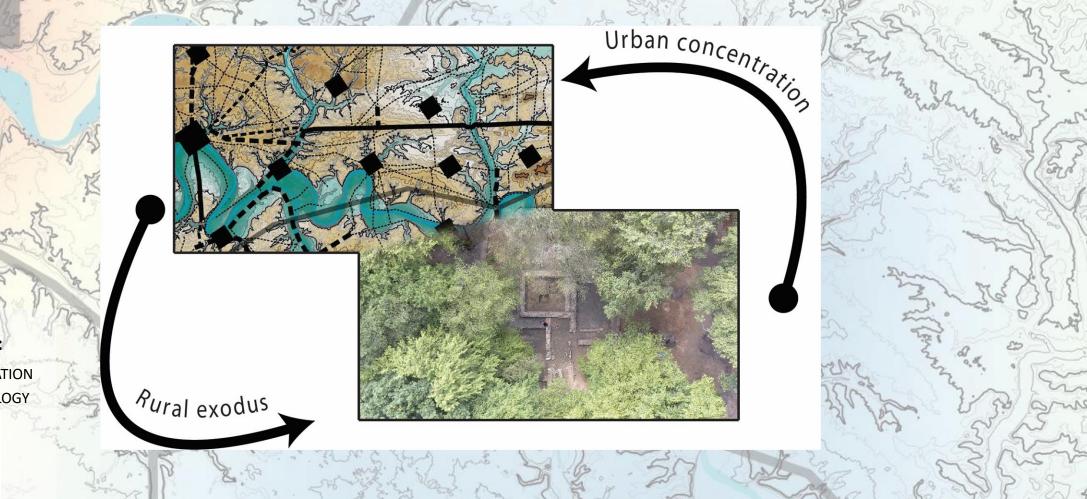


Paris during the Roman period (J.-C. GOLVIN)



Emperor Augustus bust (www.villa-culture.fr) Has the development of new towns created a rural exodus?

#### Is the demographic explosion the origin of city developments?



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**EAA 201** 



Photography of diagnostic archaeology (J. SPIESSER)

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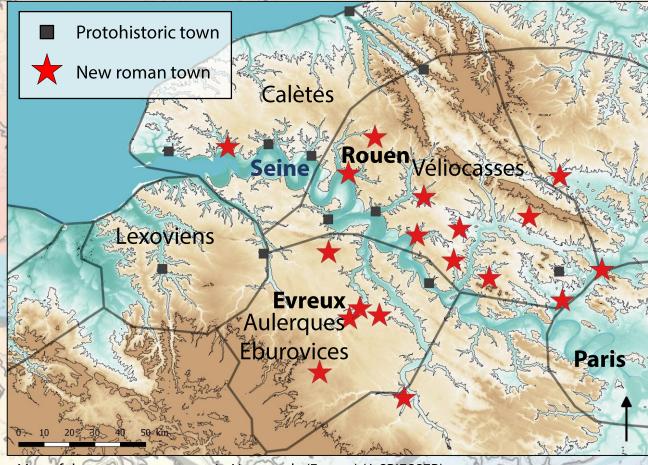
Since 1990, 0,5% of the French territory was archaeological diagnosed. These operations revealed thousands of Protohistoric and Roman farms.



Photography of preventive archaeology (J. SPIESSER)



Photography of new building (J. SPIESSER)



Map of the new roman towns in Normandy (France) (J. SPIESSER)

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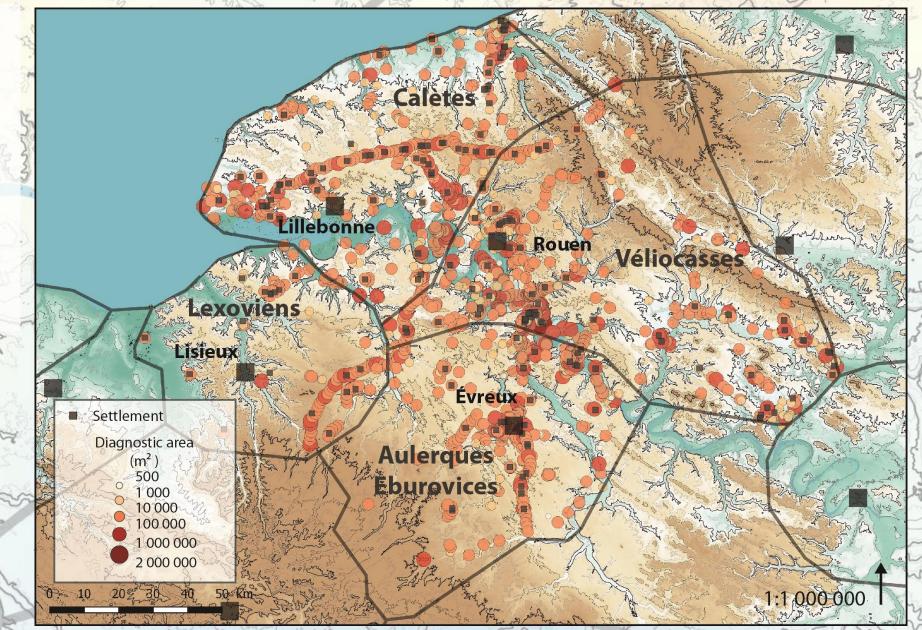
Normandy is an ideal area to study this question, because the new roman towns were created only in the southeast of the region.



Since 1990, 1182 archaeological diagnostic were conducted in the low valley of the Seine. They unearthed 232 protohistoric or roman settlements.

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Map of preventive archaeology in Normandy (France) (J. SPIESSER)

In Normandy, our knowledge about the density of Protohistoric and roman settlements has reached a stable state in 2003

Density of settlements (number per km<sup>2</sup>) Density of Protohistoric settlements (number per km<sup>2</sup>)
Density of early Roman settlements (number per km<sup>2</sup>)
Density of late Roman settlements (number per km<sup>2</sup>)

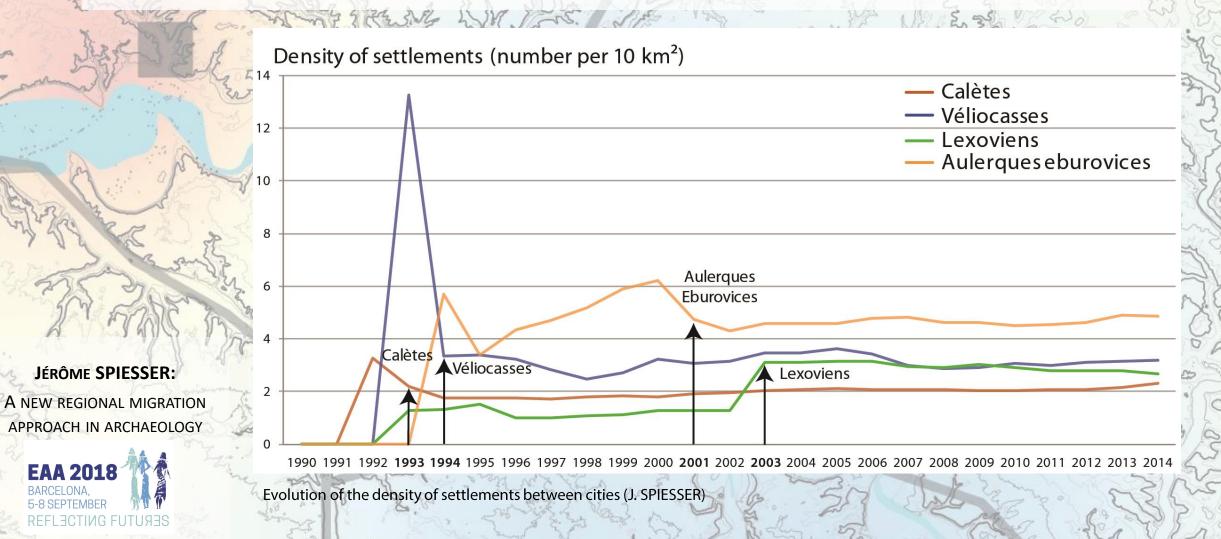
2 1.5 1 0.5 0 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 **2003** 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

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Evolution to density of settlements during Protohistoric and Roman period (J. SPIESSER)

#### In addition, our knowledge about the density of settlements has stabilised between the 4 different roman cities



#### For every 8 km<sup>2</sup> of diagnosed surface, the density of settlements stabilises

NORTH

Diagnostic area ( km²)

30

25

20

15



— Lexoviens

- Aulerques eburovices
- Year in witch stability has reached

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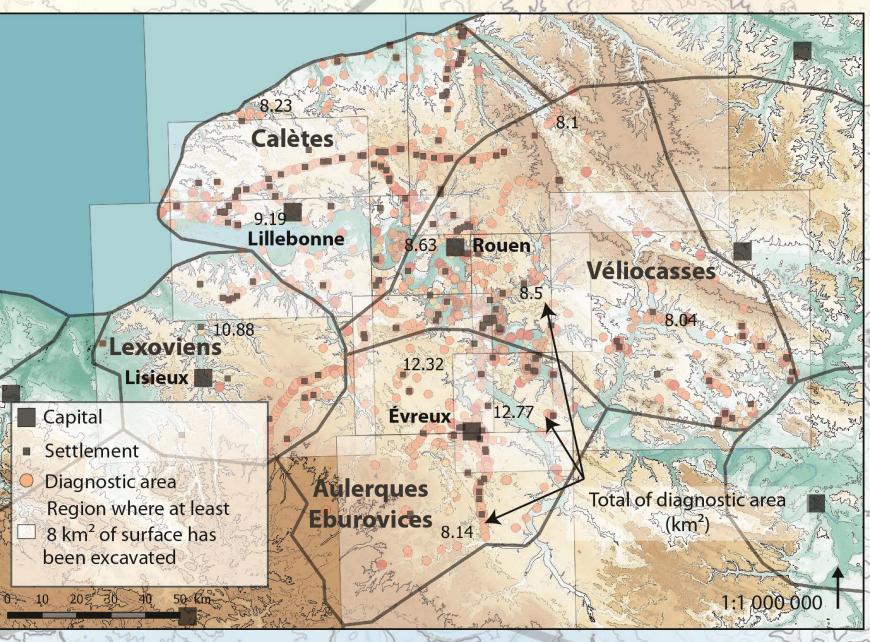
990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

(For every 8 km<sup>2</sup> of diagnosed surface, the density of settlements stabilises J. SPIESSER)

Deliniation of spaces enclosing at least 8 km<sup>2</sup> of diagnosed surface

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Deliniation of spaces enclosing at least 8 km<sup>2</sup> of diagnosed surface (J. SPIESSER)

Deliniation of spaces enclosing at least 8 km<sup>2</sup> of diagnosed surface

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Densities of rural settlement in 50 AC (J. SPIESSER)

Pria

**High density** 

22

Low density

6

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

-100

miltight

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

-75

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

-50

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

-25

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

25

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

50

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

75

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

100

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

125

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

150

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

175

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

200

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

225

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

250

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

275

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

300

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325

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

375

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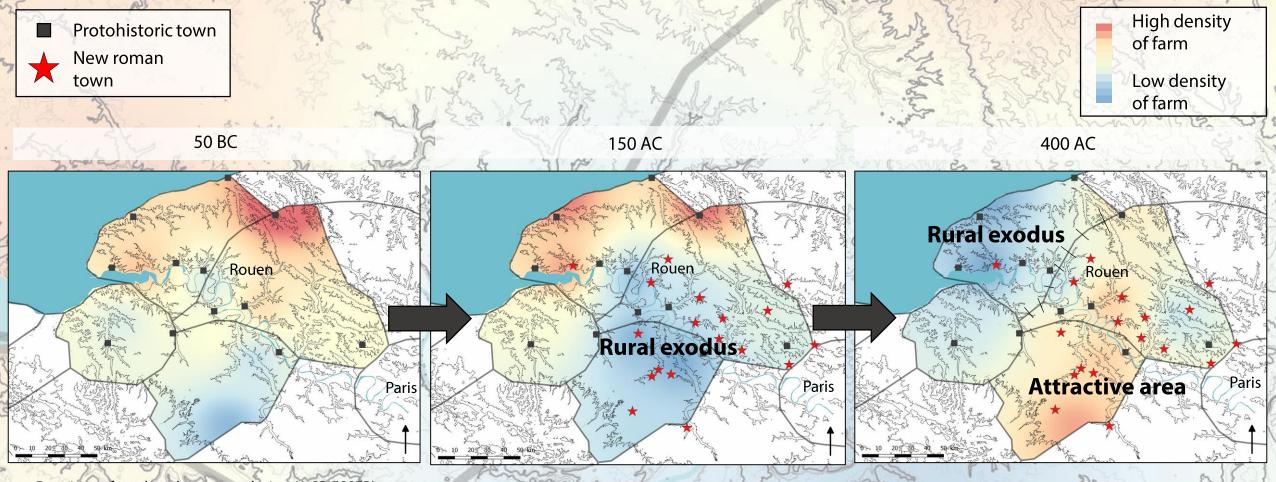
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Densities of rural settlement (J. SPIESSER)

400

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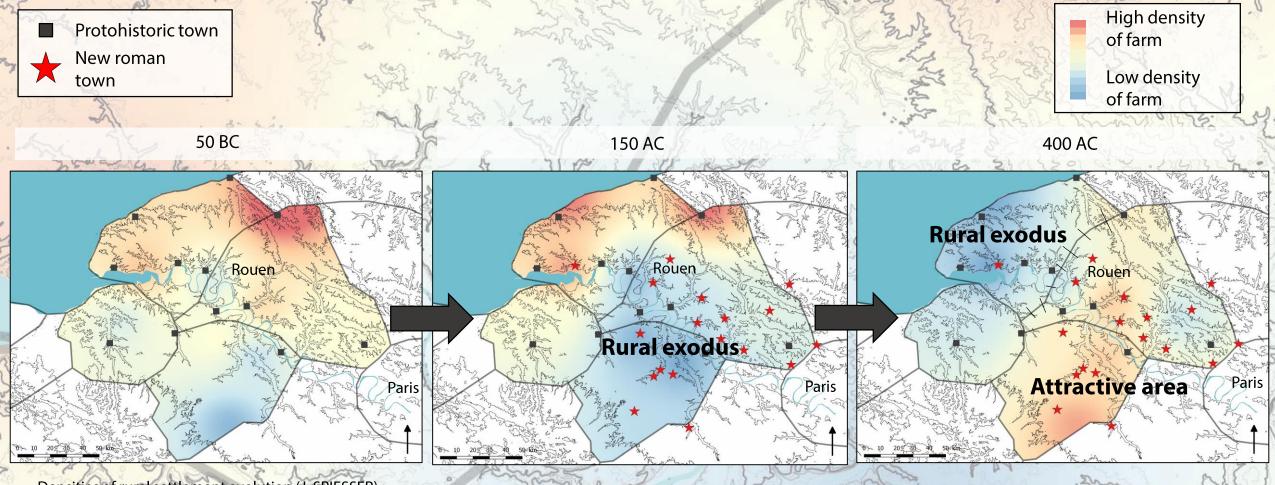


Densities of rural settlement evolution (J. SPIESSER)

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New roman towns in 10 BC led to a short-distance rural exodus. It is not until the III<sup>rd</sup> century that the rural space became attractive



Densities of rural settlement evolution (J. SPIESSER)

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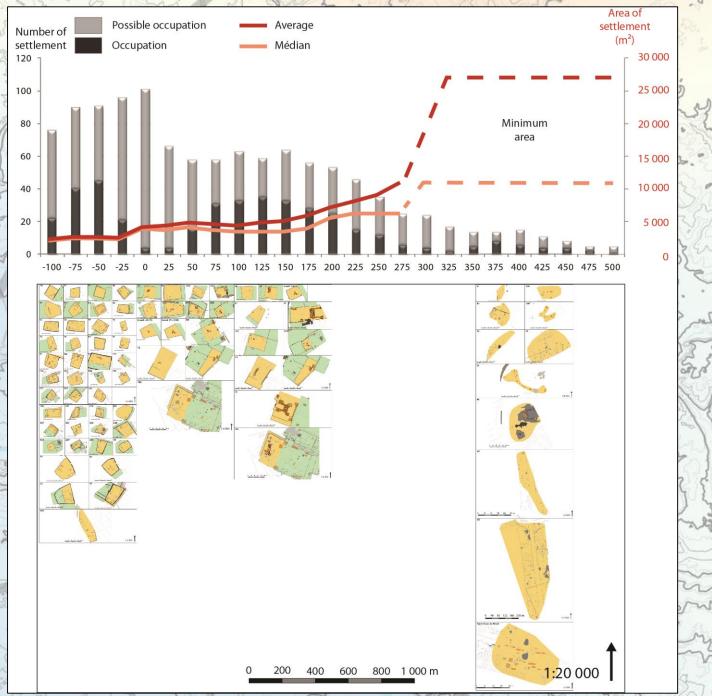


# What happens in the middle of III<sup>rd</sup> century ?

In the middle of Ill<sup>rd</sup> century, the number of settlements were divided by 4 while their surface was multiplied by 4.







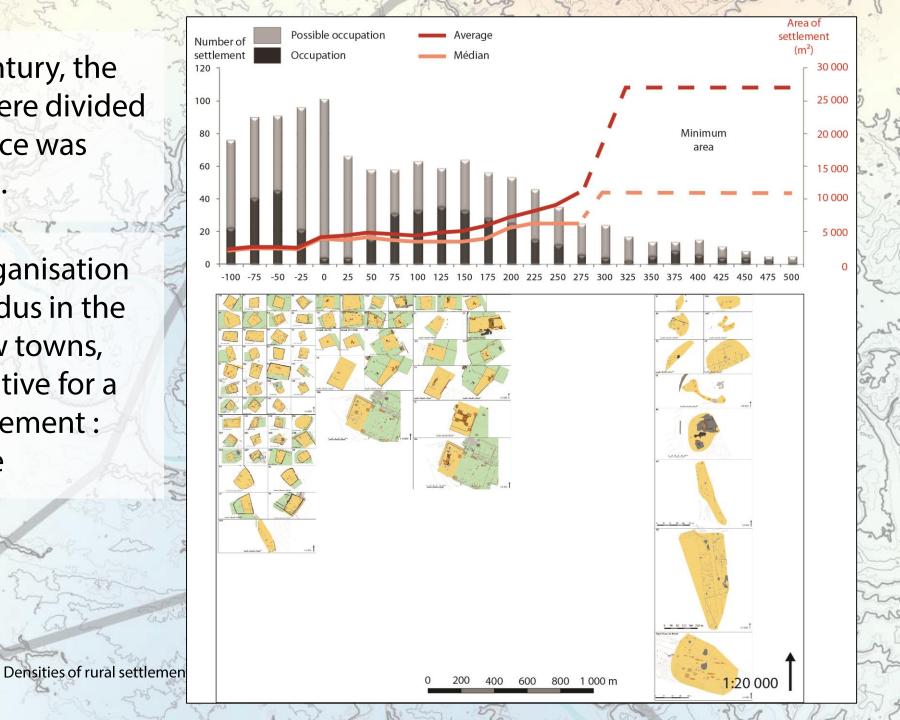
In the middle of III<sup>rd</sup> century, the number of settlements were divided by 4 while their surface was multiplied by 4.

Emperor Augustus' reorganisation led at first to a rural exodus in the close periphery of new towns, before becaming attractive for a new type of rural settlement : The tiny village

#### A CLANG

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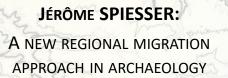
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#### Thank you for your attention !

For more informations : jerome.spiesser@hotmail.fr

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The low valley of the Seine (J. SPIESSER)