Archaeology (archaia) and history (historiè) are the sciences that study the past. They were forged and practised in the 5th century B.C. by Herodotus and Thucydides. They seek to understand ancient human societies through material vestiges, artefacts or ecofacts, and textual and illustrated/iconographic documents. This knowledge makes it possible to take a long-range and explanatory look at current societies. The laboratory studies the societies of Antiquity and the Middle Ages and more specifically addresses the themes of landscapes and the environment, colonisation and interchanges, cultural and social identities.

140 people including
77 researchers and teachers-researchers | 6 at Le Mans
30 doctoral students | 10 at Le Mans
33 administrative and technical staff | 3 at Le Mans

Partnerships
• Close cooperation with other French, European and international laboratories, including in Italy, Romania, Greece, Israel, Morocco, Australia and Spain.
• Close partnerships with Cultural Affairs Directorates, Regional Archaeology Services, Heritage, Culture and Archaeology departments of local authorities, particularly in Western France, INRAP, ADRAMAR, private archaeology companies (Archeodunum, Dendrotech, Evéha, Hades), the ONF (National Forestry Office), the natural parks of Normandy-Maine and Baronnies provençales, French schools abroad.

Robotic laser tacheometer, Atlantic and Mediterranean charcoals collection.

The scientific positioning of the laboratory is situated at the interface of Humanities and social science and biological, chemical and physical earth sciences in order to develop archaeosciences. The projects carried out have strong territorial roots (Ancient walls of Le Mans, medieval Mainiote fortifications, habitat and activities in the forest of Perseigne/Bercé).
Collective reflection is based on a social history and historical anthropology approach to social and cultural identities understood as the cultural hallmark(s) characterising an individual or a group of individuals by determining common behaviour or practices. Three unifying themes are emphasised: the name, the body and the rank. The construction of these identities is done through norms identified in particular by prosopography thanks in particular to epigraphy, but also with regard to deviations from the norm. The study of bodies outside the norm (disability, physical violence against persons) is a particular focus.

The team looks at the current landscape as the legacy of a long series of close relationships between societies and their environments, not only as a biological object, but also as a social object. At the interface of cultural archaeology, history, ethnology, mythology and environmental archaeological sciences, it is a question of understanding the evolution of the inherited landscape forms, while at the same time being selective about the impact of climatic variations on the environments and those of cultural changes. This scientific bias involves a long-term diachronic approach and recourse to a wide variety of skills (geohistory, geoarchaeology, geomorphology, geomythology, xylology, anthracology, ecology, botany and archaeo-entomology).

Researchers work mainly in the Mediterranean in order to understand the processes of colonisation, settlement and land and sea trade in Antiquity through the comparison of textual, epigraphic and archaeological information. Excavations are carried out both in coastal and undersea environments to gain a better understanding of shore and coastal systems and to better understand the history of uses, men and techniques related to the sea. Investigations began around the river waterways of the Loire region.

- **Cassius Dio and Roman historiography**
- **Disabilities in Antiquity**
- **Exiles in Greek societies**
- **The iron of Empire: the example of Roman Dacia**
- **The late Roman wall of Le Mans: cross-approach trial, from study to heritage promotion**
- **Istros: an iconic site of the history of the Black Sea during Antiquity**
- **For a history of the sea: hulls and wrecks of Mediterranean ships**
- **Promotion of the Loire nautical heritage**
- **Geo-mythology and ethno-archaeohistory of environmental crises**
- **Thinking about the end of the world: from myth to scientific questioning**
- **Archaeohistory and geochemistry of medieval rural occupations**
- **Beziers landscapes: diachronic readings since Antiquity**
- **Ethno-archaeology of crafts related to fire and archaeohistory of forests**
- **The dynamics of medieval landscapes**
- **State of health of timber: archaeo-entomology of ancient woods**
- **Woodwork: from forest to practical use**

**6 research teams** including 3 represented at Le Mans

**12 research operations and 4 cross-disciplinary axes**