



The Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology (OCMA) is inviting you to attend its online seminar series "Alexandria and the Sea".

From 11th October to 2nd December lectures will be held each Monday and Thursday at 5 pm (GMT). The purpose of this seminar is to examine the relationship of the city of Alexandria to the sea during the Ptolemaic and Roman periods. On Mondays, the Classical Archaeology Seminar will present the research of scholars and their teams working in and around Alexandria examining the city, its maritime façade, and connections across the sea beyond Egypt. In the Maritime Archaeology Seminar on Thursdays, a detailed range of studies on the underwater excavations and material culture from the Portus Magnus will be presented.

The series will culminate in a public lecture by Franck Goddio on Thursday, 2nd December, at 5 pm (GMT) in which he will present, for the first time, the results of his 25 years of research in the ancient Portus Magnus of Alexandria.

Alexandria and the Sea has been made possible by the generous support of the Hilti Foundation.

### **Classical Archaeology Seminar (Mondays, 5 pm UK time)**

The Monday meetings will be held on Zoom, to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/92289085742?pwd=dmVIUXNSNDA1VjMzY2pSSGF3TkwxZz09>

Meeting ID: 922 8908 5742

Passcode: 841506

### **11th October 2021: Jean-Philippe Goiran**

Geoarchaeology of the ancient harbours of Alexandria (Egypt): state of the art

**18th October 2021: Franck Goddio**

The Iseum on the Royal Island of Antirhodos in the Portus Magnus of Alexandria

**25th October 2021: Kyriakos Savvopolous**

Underwater finds from Akra Lochias and Shatby

**1st November 2021: Ehab Fahmy**

Alexandria and its suburbs: the maritime cultural landscape

**8th November 2021: Jean-Yves Carrez-Maratray**

From Alexandria to Canopus: some topographical and religious observations concerning the eastern Alexandrian shore

**15th November 2021: Damian Robinson**

With Alexander Belov, Nesreen Elgaly, David Honore, Catherine Grataloup, Patrice Sandrin and Tina Roushannafas

J3: a Roman working vessel from the Portus Magnus

**22nd November 2021: Pascal Arnaud**

Ships, people, port-networks and seasons: keys for understanding the maritime sea-routes from and to Alexandria

**29th November 2021: Robert Steven Bianchi**

Maritime Alexandria through the lens of Thonis-Heracleion

**Maritime Archaeology Seminar (Thursdays, 5 pm UK time)**

The Thursday meetings will be held on Zoom, to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/91591095059?pwd=R2gyRkk1dkJ6aWUrUWcxTVdINDM3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 915 9109 5059

Passcode: 865850

**14th October 2021: Antoine Guillain**

Portus Magnus: Approche méthodologique d'une fouille sous-marine

**21st October 2021: Catherine Grataloup**

Ceramics from the Portus Magnus

**28th October 2021: Andrew Meadows and Thomas Faucher**

Coins from the Portus Magnus & terrestrial Alexandria

**4th November 2021:**

No paper

**11th November 2021: Susan Walker**

The emperor Caracalla's visit to Alexandria as seen from the harbour

**18th November 2021: Alex Belov**

Alexandria as the centre of maritime innovations

**25th November 2021: Christoph Gerigk**

Photography and the Portus Magnus

**Public lecture (5 pm UK time)**

To attend the public lecture virtually: <https://livestream.com/oxuni>

## **2nd December 2021: Franck Goddio**

An overview of the Portus Magnus of Alexandria

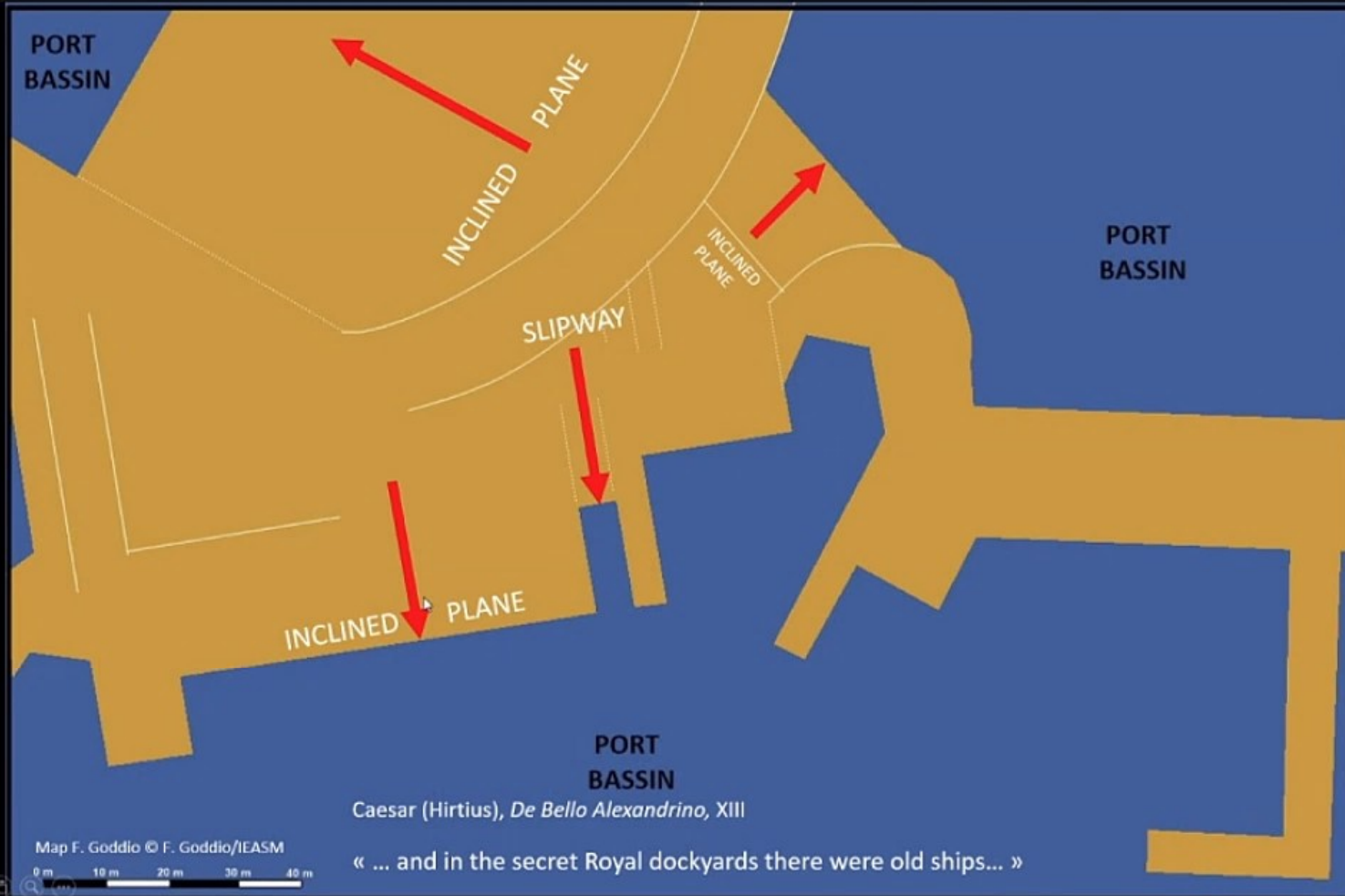
Please note that this presentation is being organised as a livestreamed lecture aimed at the public.

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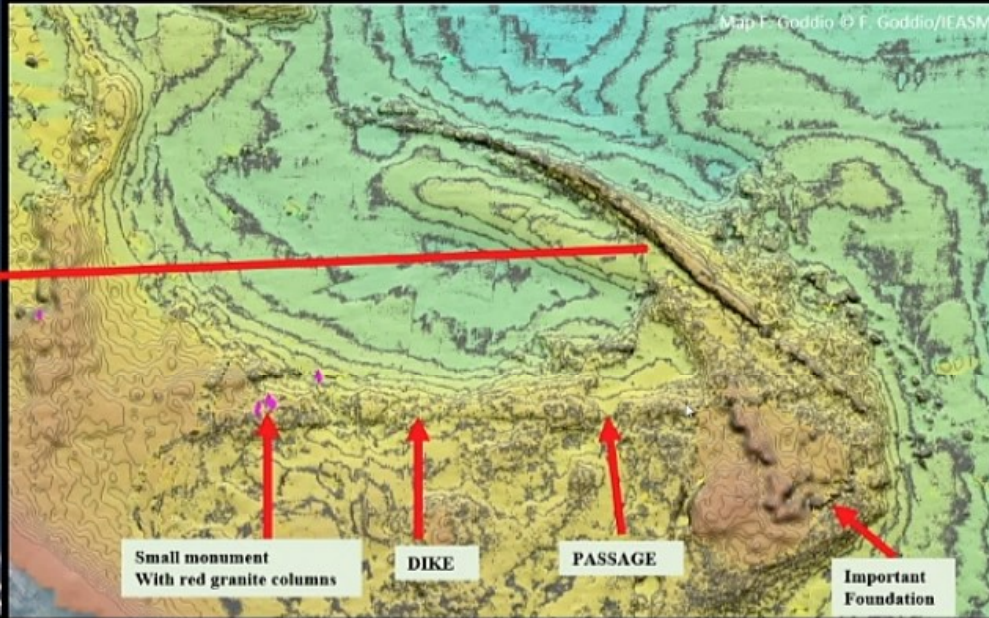




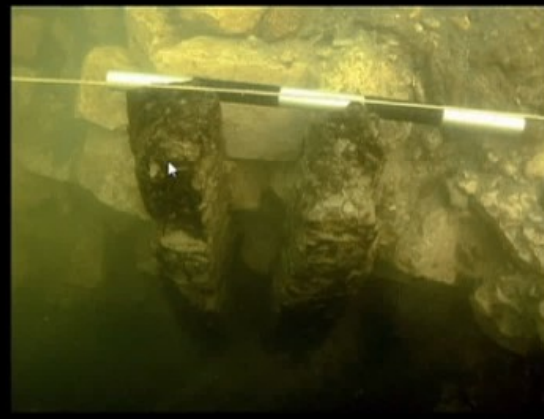
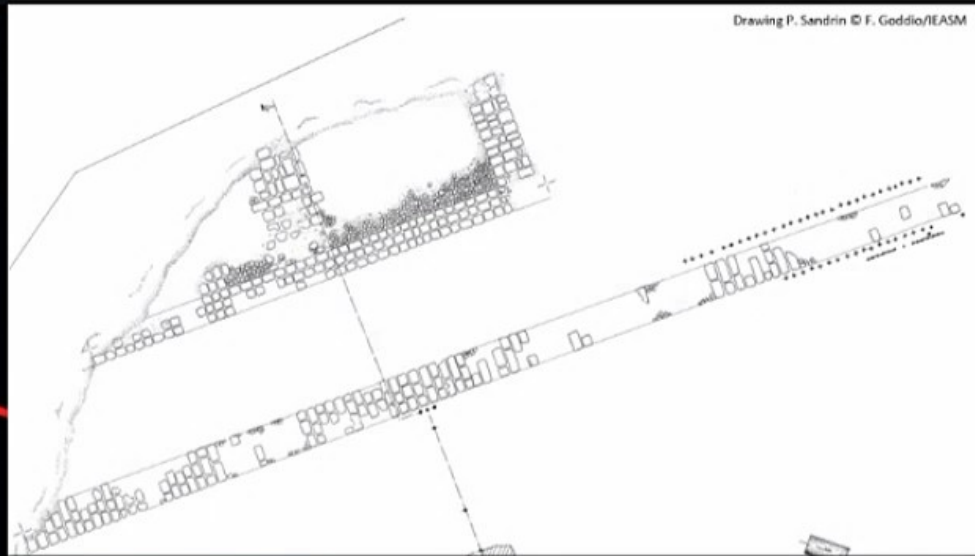


- Dike dug into the limestone rock, port leveled by digging into the rocky ground.
- Junction to the coast by a walkway or dike made of limestone blocks and wooden posts with one passage.

Wood beam 1 : *Ulmus sp.*: 5 cal AD- 225 cal AD. (111 rings)

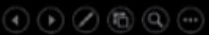
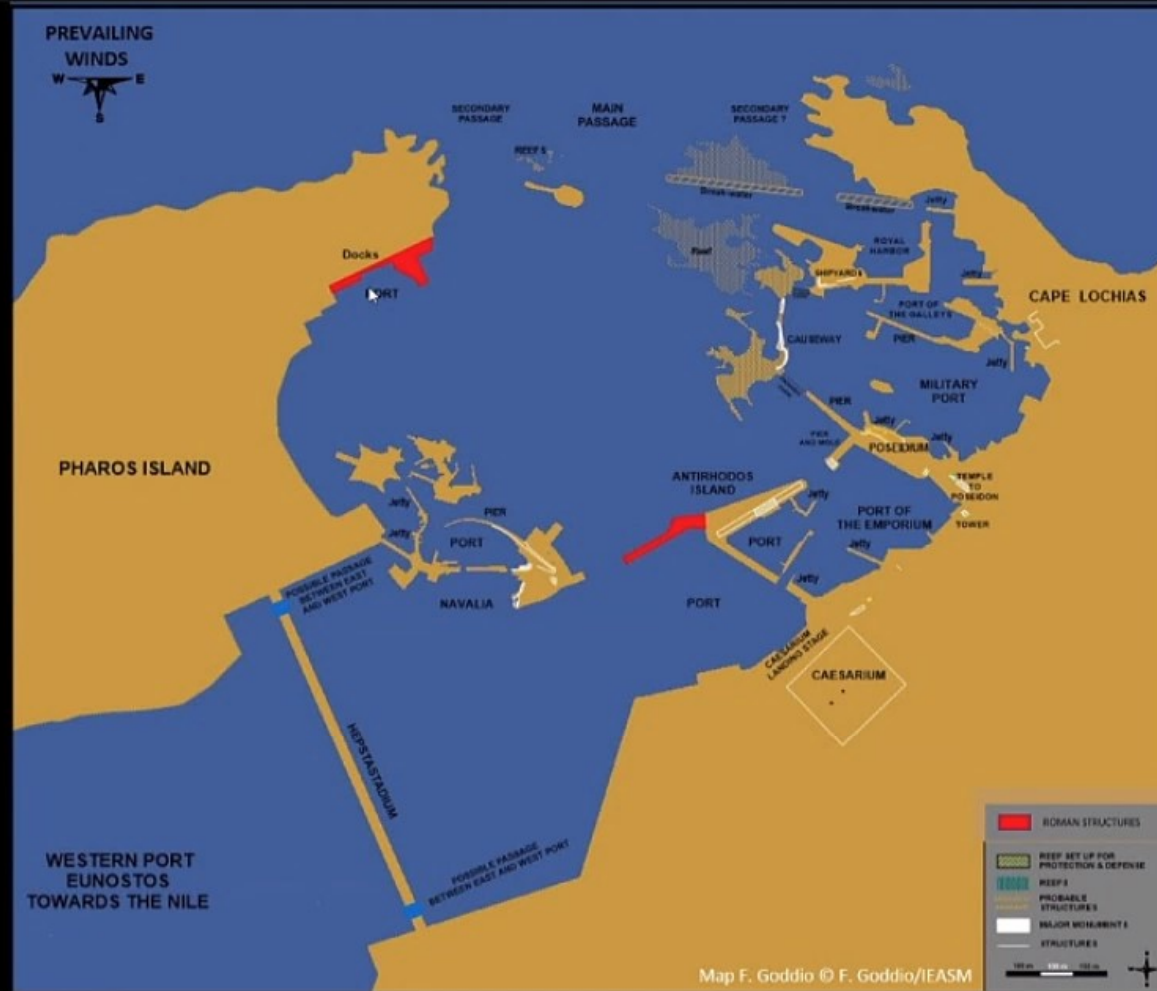




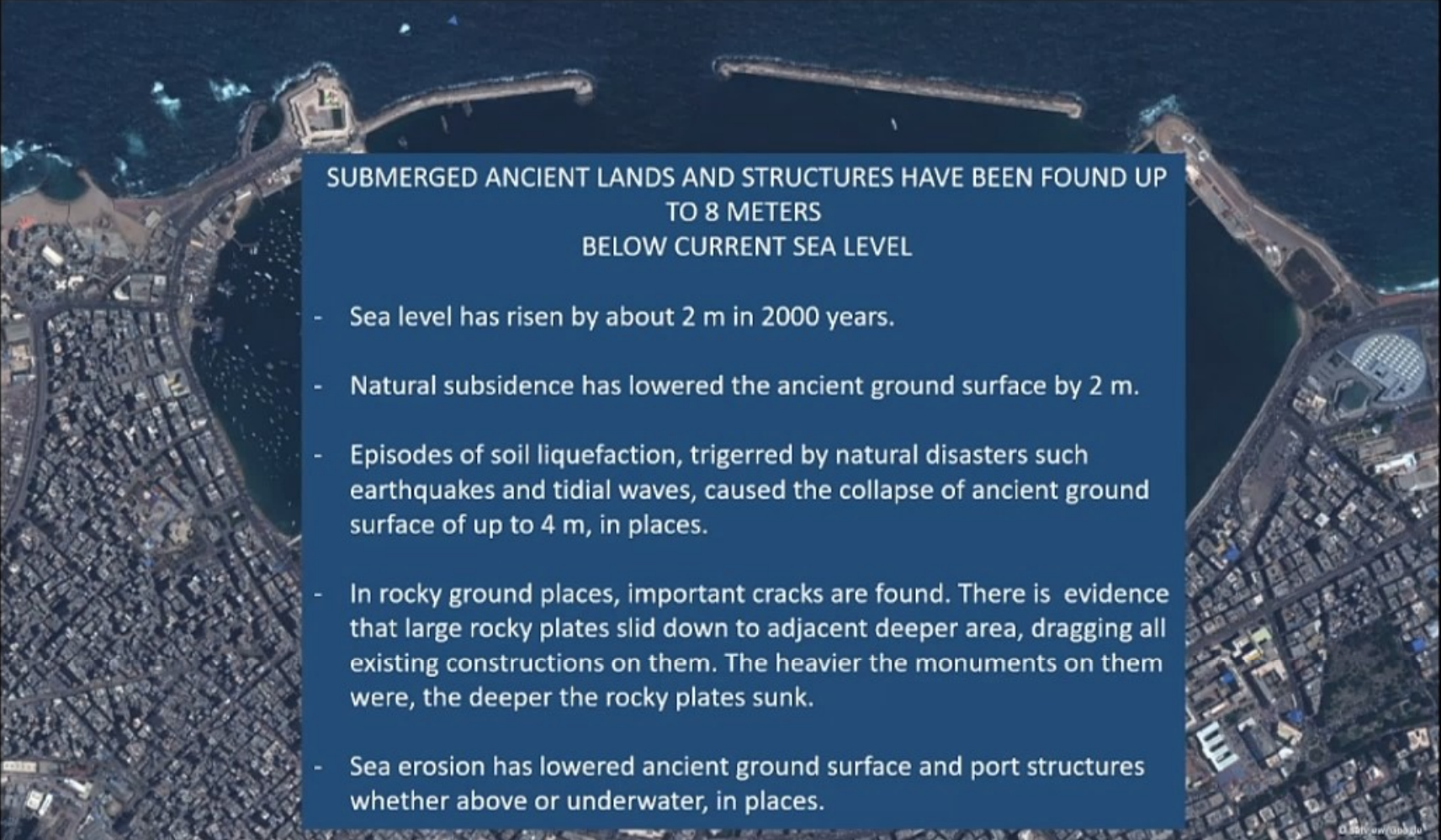


Post 2: *Quercus sp.*: 20 cal BC- 215 cal AD  
Post 4: *Quercus sp.*: 80 cal AD-315 cal AD

THE PORTUS MAGNUS  
ROMAN PERIOD  
2<sup>nd</sup> CENTURY AD



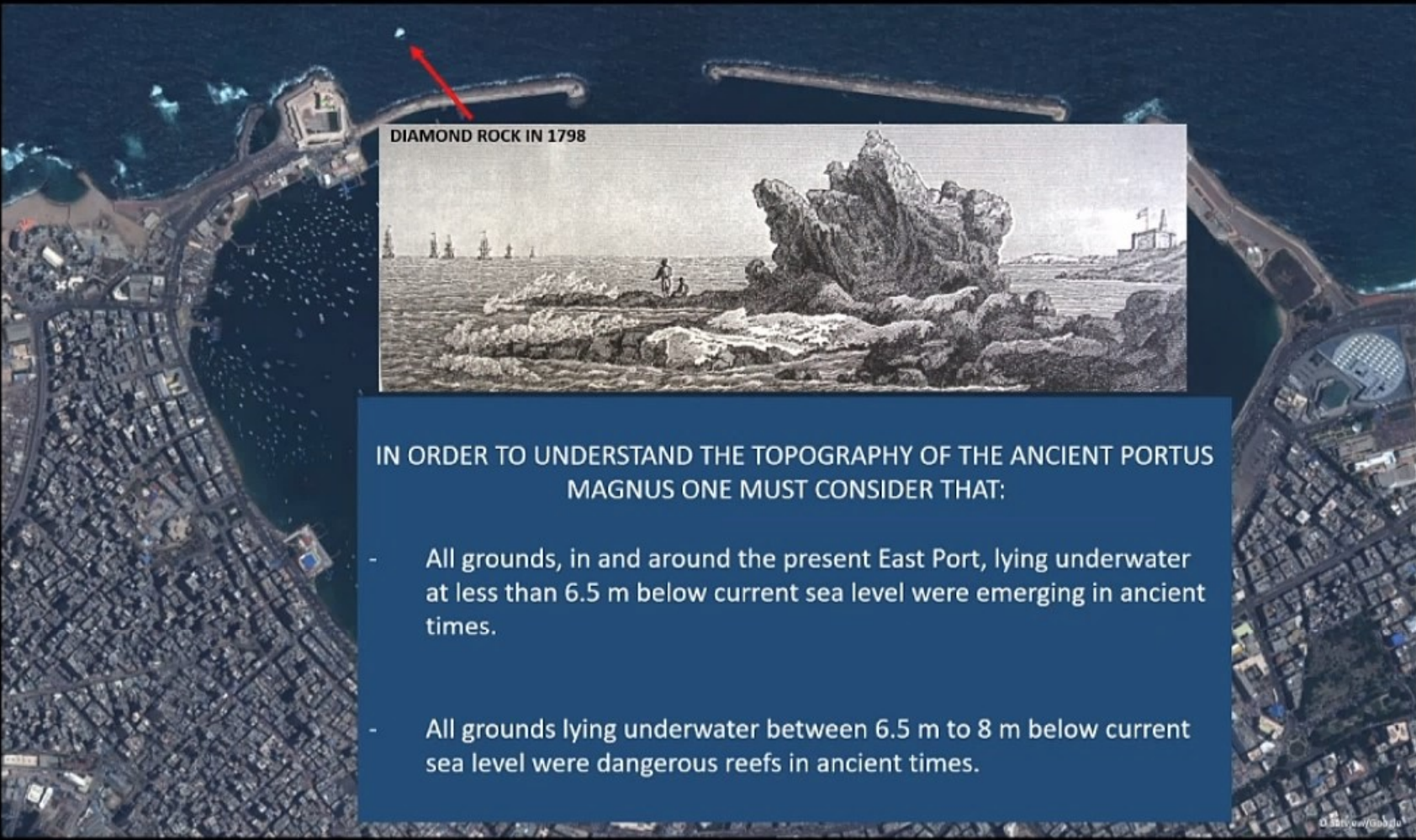




SUBMERGED ANCIENT LANDS AND STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN FOUND UP  
TO 8 METERS  
BELOW CURRENT SEA LEVEL

- Sea level has risen by about 2 m in 2000 years.
- Natural subsidence has lowered the ancient ground surface by 2 m.
- Episodes of soil liquefaction, triggered by natural disasters such as earthquakes and tidal waves, caused the collapse of ancient ground surface of up to 4 m, in places.
- In rocky ground places, important cracks are found. There is evidence that large rocky plates slid down to adjacent deeper area, dragging all existing constructions on them. The heavier the monuments on them were, the deeper the rocky plates sunk.
- Sea erosion has lowered ancient ground surface and port structures whether above or underwater, in places.





DIAMOND ROCK IN 1798



IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE TOPOGRAPHY OF THE ANCIENT PORTUS MAGNUS ONE MUST CONSIDER THAT:

- All grounds, in and around the present East Port, lying underwater at less than 6.5 m below current sea level were emerging in ancient times.
- All grounds lying underwater between 6.5 m to 8 m below current sea level were dangerous reefs in ancient times.

