

# Historic centre of Ferrara

**Historical background - Engineering geological conditions and problems:**

The city of Ferrara (Emilia-Romagna region), grown up around a ford in the Po River, became an intellectual and artistic centre that attracted the greatest minds of the Italian Renaissance during the 15th and 16th centuries. Here, Piero della Francesca, Jacopo Bellini and Andrea Mantegna decorated the Este House palaces. The humanist concept of the 'ideal city' came to life here, in the neighbourhoods built from 1492 onwards by Biagio Rossetti according to the new principles of perspective.

Ferrara lies near the Po River, on a alluvial plain without any problem of subsidence. So, the only geological problem relates to the Po and Reno rivers floods.

The last flood documented by the National Council of Research happened on 27 November 1949 and caused damages to buildings and bridges, not only in the town but also in the hamlets surrounding Ferrara.



**The Cathedral**  
(<http://www.ferraraonline.it>)



**The Square**  
(<http://www.ferraraonline.it>)

**Investigations and protection measures already realized:**

The Geological Survey of the Regione Emilia Romagna realized a map of water-bearings' vulnerability of all the country. Some sites close to Ferrara were included in the higher class of vulnerability ([www.regione.emilia-romagna.it](http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it)).

**Supplementary information:**

The historic centre of Ferrara was inserted in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1995 considering that the site is of outstanding universal value, being a Renaissance city, remarkably planned, which has retained its urban fabric virtually intact. The developments in town planning expressed in Ferrara were to have a profound influence on the development of urban design throughout the succeeding centuries.



**The stone walls of the town**  
(<http://www.ferraraonline.it>)

**References on studies already done:**

GNDICI "Progetto AVI – Aree vulnerate italiane - Censimento delle aree italiane storicamente vulnerate da calamità geologiche ed idrauliche" ([www.gndci.it](http://www.gndci.it))