



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The fortified area

The top of Su Muru Mannu, that dominates the town of Tharros to the north, was a natural bulwark towards the inland (figs. 1-2) and fortifications were built for this reason from the Punic age.



Fig. 1 - Tharros and the top of Su Muru Mannu (A)
(from Google Earth. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)



Fig. 2 - Details of the direction of the fortifications on Su Muru Mannu fortress
(photo by Unicity S.p.A. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)

The complex matters of the various fortification stages, still to be clarified in part, saw a first wall built in the Punic period of 4th century B.C., with the use of materials taken from previous buildings; later, during the 2nd century B.C., the Romans gave the area its current appearance.

A large moat (A) is bordered by the boundary wall (C) and the counterscarp wall (B), supported by an agger in the ground (fig. 3).





Fig. 3 - The fortifications: A) the moat; B) the counterscarp wall; C) the perimeter wall
(photo by Unicity S.p.A. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)

The boundary wall shows traces of several interventions, the last of which has the structure built in dry-wall mode, with rough basalt blocks with the insertion of square blocks in white sandstone, that comprises a kind of decorative motif (fig. 4).





Fig. 4 - The basalt perimeter wall with smooth sandstone blocks (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

A postern opened up in this wall, that was then blocked up later, also with sandstone (fig. 5).



Fig. 5 - The postern (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The top part of the wall has collapsed by the remains of the collapse shows how the tops had arched battlements (fig. 6).





Fig. 6 - A merlon on the perimeter wall (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The counterscarp wall is made from irregular basalt blocks and externally there is a strong agger made from layers of earth and mounds of sand (fig. 7).



Fig. 7 - The counterscarp wall (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

Towards the middle of the 1st century B.C., fortifications were no longer functional, and the moat was partly filled and used to arrange a small necropolis.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti.

■ Bibliography

AA.VV., *Tharros XXIV*, supplemento alla *Rivista di Studi Fenici XXV*, Roma 1997





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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a