



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The Roman roads

During the Roman Empire era, the city enjoyed a network of paved roads, often with basalt that covered an efficient sewer system dug into the rock beneath (figs. 1-4).

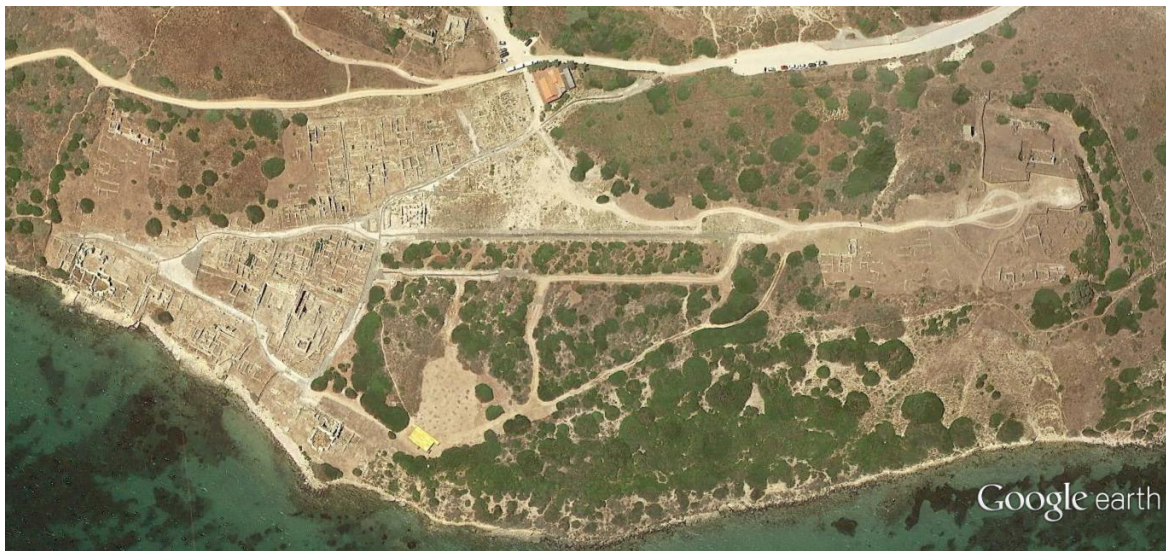


Fig. 1 - Tharros: two main roads can clearly be seen that lead from the centre to the top of Su Muru Mannu (right), and the division into quarters by the major urban roads (from Google Earth)



Fig. 2 - The roads that divide the central quarter of Tharros (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 3 - Main N-S road; the trace of the Roman sewer in the centre, currently covered in wood for safety reasons (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 4 - Main W-E road (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The paving of the roads (fig. 5) seems due to an intervention to organise the urban centre, that we cannot date, but that, according to a similar phenomenon found in Nora, can be hypothesised between the 2nd and 3rd century A.D.



Fig. 5 - Road paving (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The larger roads, 3-5 metres wide, divided the city into large quarters, while the smaller sections were created by the *ambitus* that were not much wider than the measurement of the bipedal flagstone.





Fig. 6 - A narrow *ambitus* that outlines the blocks of houses (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The small roads on the hill also had a sewer that offloaded into the sewer system of the main streets.

The irregular road network is due to the fact that it wasn't an *ex novo* pattern, but a re-arrangement of the already existing one that respected roads already in use.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by DR. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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