



Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The aqueduct

Water supply to Tharros was from three main sources. The cistern system that collected rainwater; the wells that drew up groundwater, a small aqueduct that captured water from a well near to the church of San Giovanni in San Giovanni di Sinis, about one kilometre north of the town.

There are still a few ruins left of the aqueduct on the Northwest slopes of Su Muru Mannu (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Location of the aqueduct ruins (A) in relation to the Su Muru Mannu hill (B)
(from Google Earth. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)

A stretch of about 450 metres of the aqueduct has been reformed, that, after a first stretch in the north-south direction, bent towards SSE, i.e. towards the city, where it was balanced on arches that have now been lost, or it exploited the height of the buildings for the pipes to run along (figs. 2-3).

There were arches in the first part, to overcome the differences in height on the hill, but there are no remains of the construction and we only know the interaxis of the support columns, that vary from 3 to 2.5 metres.



Fig. 2 - The aqueduct; in the background the Su Muru Mannu hill (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 3 - Stretches of the aqueduct (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)





Fig. 4 - The building structure of the aqueduct (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

A large stretch of specus covered in *opus signinum* and with tiles over the top as a dual sloping roof, is still visible.

The building (fig. 4) with masonry in tiles and blocks shows the date of the aqueduct between the 2nd and 3rd century A.D., a period that saw the realisation of several public works in Roman towns in Sardinia.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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