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REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Dwelling area, structure, chronological phases

The area of Monte Sirai settlement extends along the high plain with a close-knit building structure, showing an aware use of landscape and an intense use of the residential surface.

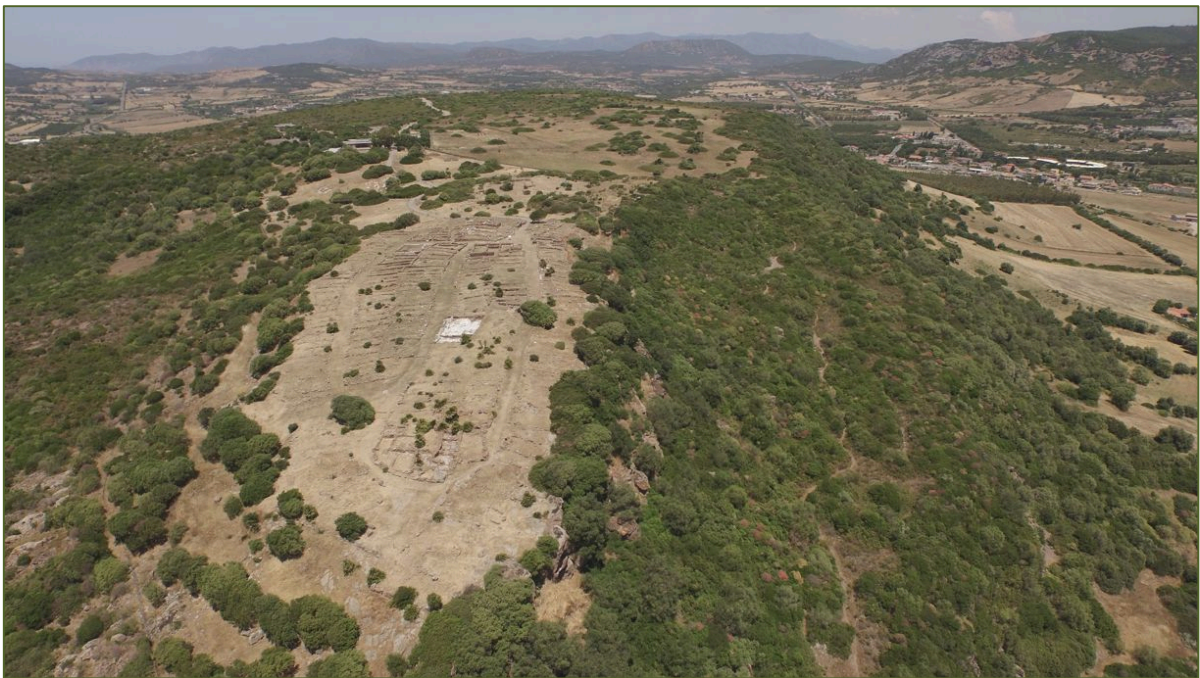


Fig. 1 - Monte Sirai (foto Unicity S.p.A.)

The settlement enjoyed its maximum period of expansion between the 4th and 2nd century B.C., between the late Punic Age and the Roman-Republic Age: however, the oldest evidence comes from the Phoenician era, in the middle of the 8th century B.C. It is arranged into blocks (called *insulae* in the history of studies) placed around small squares and streets, buildings mostly used for dwelling, but also by craftsmen, as seen by mills and ovens for bread-making, trace of metalwork, and for religious purposes, such as the 'temple of Astarte'.

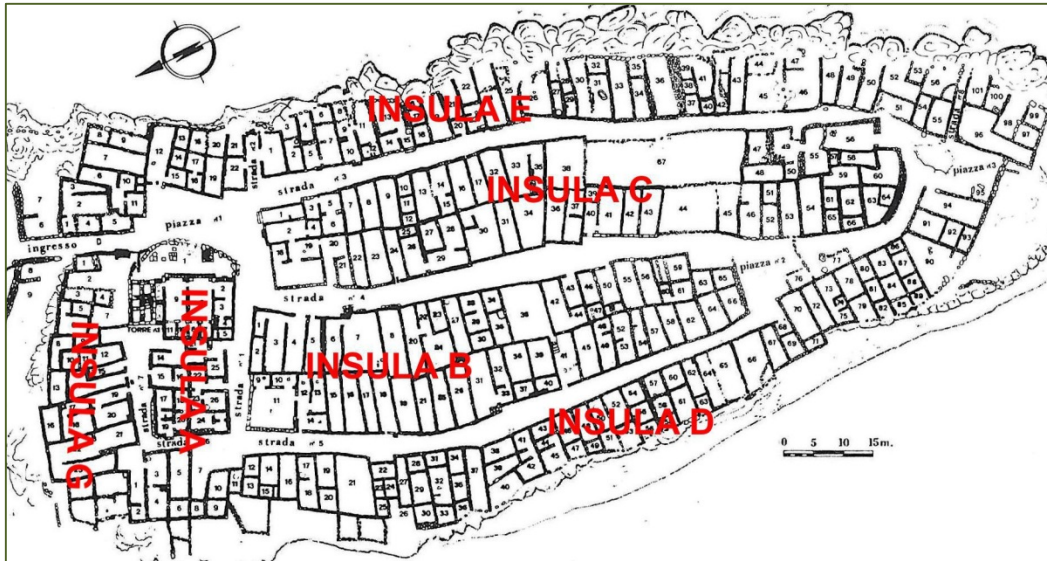


Fig. 2 - Monte Sirai, map (drawn up by GUIRGUIS 2013, fig. 11)

The oldest phases of the settlement - preceded by Neolithic and Nuragic evidence - can be dated around the 8th century B.C. In the 7th and 6th centuries B.C., intense building took place on the higher ground: this period included the building of the ancient cremation necropolis.

Another phase, that begins with the conquering of Sardinia by Carthage in the later decades of the 6th century and continues until the first half of the 4th century B.C., is not easy to spot in the buildings, but is well documented thanks to the various items found and the contemporary hypogeum necropolis.

The entire complex that can still be seen as a clear urban culture, was formed between the mid 4th century B.C. and the 2nd century B.C.: other burial grounds and the opening of the *tophet* (fig. 3) correspond to it.



Fig. 3 - The area of the *tophet* (GUIRGUIS 2013, fig. 7).

The settled area was abandoned for a long time in the early decades of the 1st century B.C. but was then inhabited again in the Late Ancient era, with extensive levelling of buildings between the 6th and 7th centuries A.D.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Giuseppina Manca di Mores and Prof. Marcello Madau

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