

The area of the Cornus basilicas

Patrimonio culturale
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■ Hill of Corchinas: sections of the walls

A semi-circular wall with extended ends was found around the hill of Corchinas; built on polygonal local phonolite blocks. This stood on the slope of the Campu 'e Corra plateau and was about 6.5 km long. A trapezoidal tower built using a polygonal technique (fig. 1) was found on the south-western slopes, already interpreted by Taramelli as a adaptation of the walls to the jutting out relief work.



Fig. 1 - Topographical reconstruction of Cornus: no. 3 - Tower of Tunchìo (from ZUCCA 1988, p. 35, fig. 2).

The plateau was accessed through three gates two of which were main ones: the one to the North from Iscala de su Campu' e Corra, the southern one from Torturiga and the third from the area mid-way between the nuraghi Muradissa and Ameddosu. Next to each entrance, they found rectangular chambers alongside each entrance and several fragments of Punic pottery which led to them being considered as military guardhouses. Based on the finding of the defensive infrastructure and of these placements, Raimondo Zucca believes that the centre of Cornus was a military base. Then the structures were not

given a certain date and according to A. Taramelli they could date back to the Byzantine age.

Along the south side of the hill, an area (fig. 2) was investigated that has returned an area made up of four rows of basalt blocks on top of one another (fig. 3) 4 metres long and 2 metres high, probably pertinent to a larger defensive circuit: it has been hypothesised that it dates back to before the 7th century, the final phase of the settlement.



Fig. 2 - Corchinis: dig areas, no. 4 - location of the basalt wall segment
(from FANTAUZZI, DE VINCENZO 2013, p. 7, fig. 9).



Fig. 3 - Wall section in basalt blocks (from FANTAUZZI, DE VINCENZO 2013, p. 14, fig. 23).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Claudia Cocco and Dr. Francesca Collu

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