



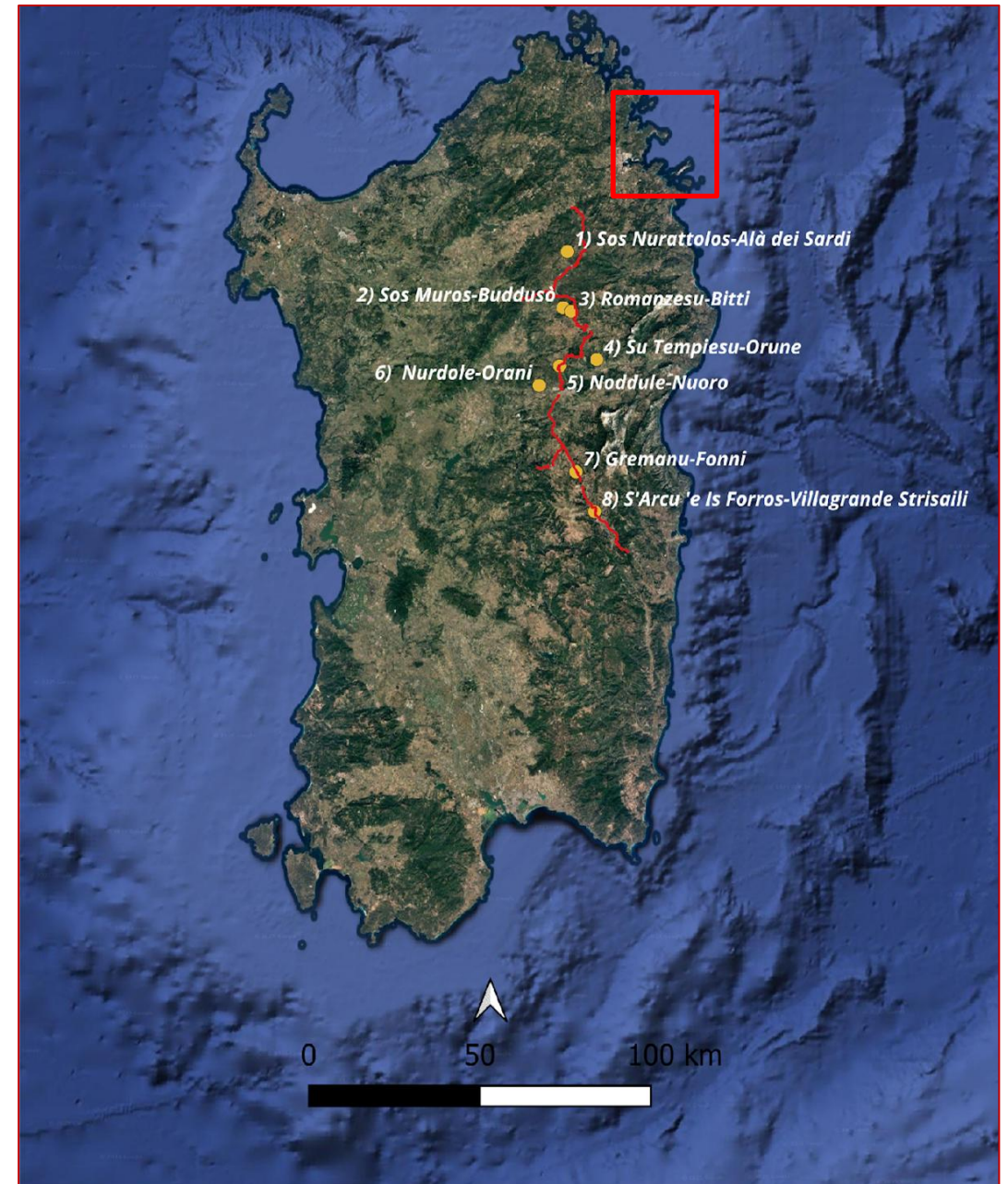
***Protohistoric sanctuaries and exchange
networks: metal and prestige goods along an
inland axis of Central-Eastern Sardinia***

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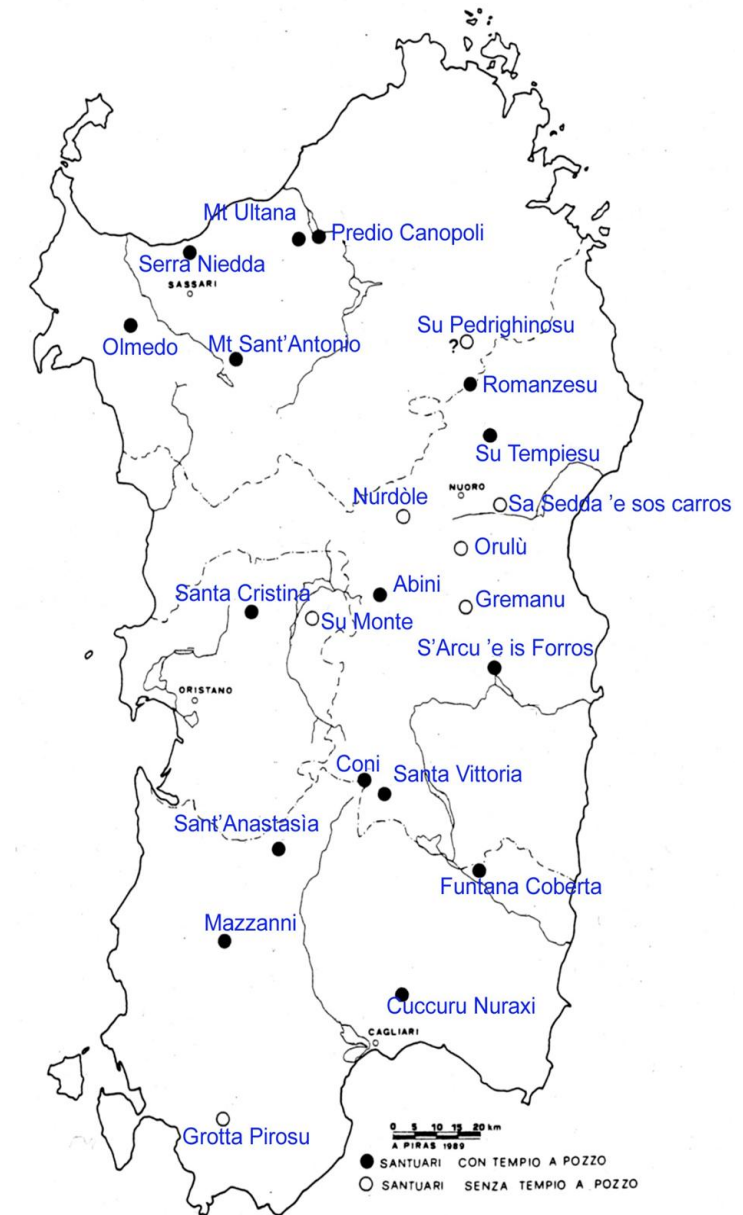
8 protohistoric sanctuaries along a natural communication way in central-eastern Sardinia

- A natural communication way following valleys, river courses, depressions, passages
- From the NE coast, Olbia's gulf, to the SE
- In Roman times the route was retraced by proper roads included in the *Itinerarium Antonini*.
- At the moment National Road SS389 *di Buddusò e del Correboi*.
- Some parts of the original way and roman road have been changed just in the last century.
- At least 8 sanctuaries built along the way (in 151 km) between Late Bronze and Early Iron Age



Sardinian sanctuaries

- A sanctuary is a worship place characterized by the presence of several temples, buildings and spaces with different functions related to cults, ceremonies, offerings storage, accomodation for visitors.
- Built from Late Bronze to Early Iron Age
- Monumental architecture, with decorative elements
- Significant architectural effort, often using construction materials imported from other areas
- Topographic complexity
- Presence of offerings, prestige items, imported goods, metals
- Reference point for several communities
- Religious, social and economic role and Authority over a wide area
- Control of metallurgy and metal circulation, internal trade



Types of temples

- Sacred wells
- Sacred springs
- Megaron temples
- Circular temples
- Squared temples
- Meeting buildings with benches (capanne delle riunioni)
- Circular buildings with basins (rotonde con bacile)
- Nuraghi converted into temples

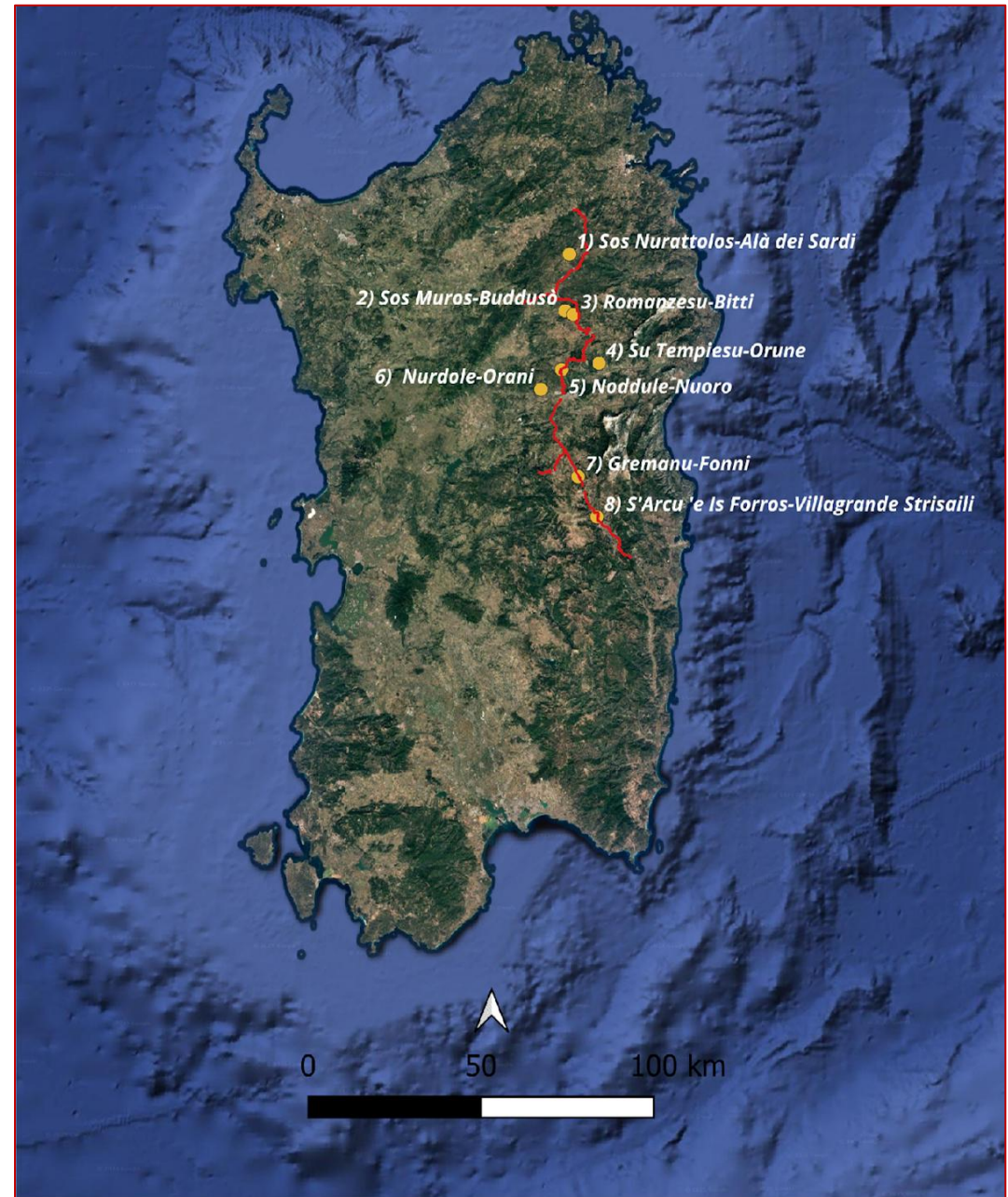


Accessory buildings associated with temples

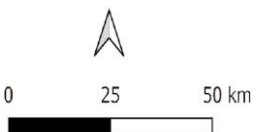
- Storehouses
- Houses for the visitors accomodation
- Buildings related to productive activities (food processing, metal working, ecc.)

The sanctuaries along the way

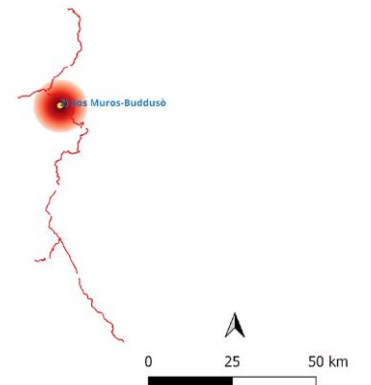
- 1) Sos Nurattolos-Alà dei Sardi
- 2) Sos Muros-Buddusò
- 3) Romanzesu-Bitti
- 4) Su Tempiesu-Orune
- 5) Noddule-Nuoro
- 6) Nurdole-Orani
- 7) Gremanu-Fonni
- 8) S'Arcu 'e Is Forros-Villagrande Strisaili



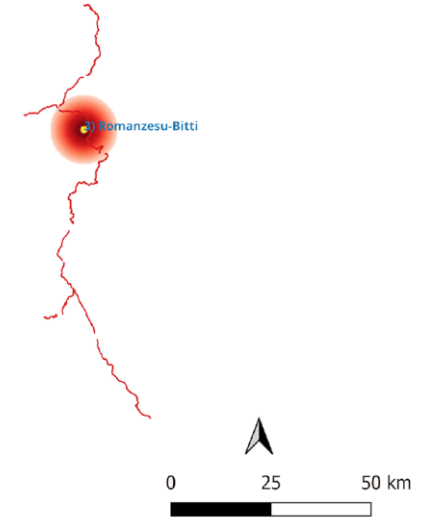
Sos Nurattolos-Alà dei Sardi



Sos Muros-Buddusò



Romanzesu-Bitti

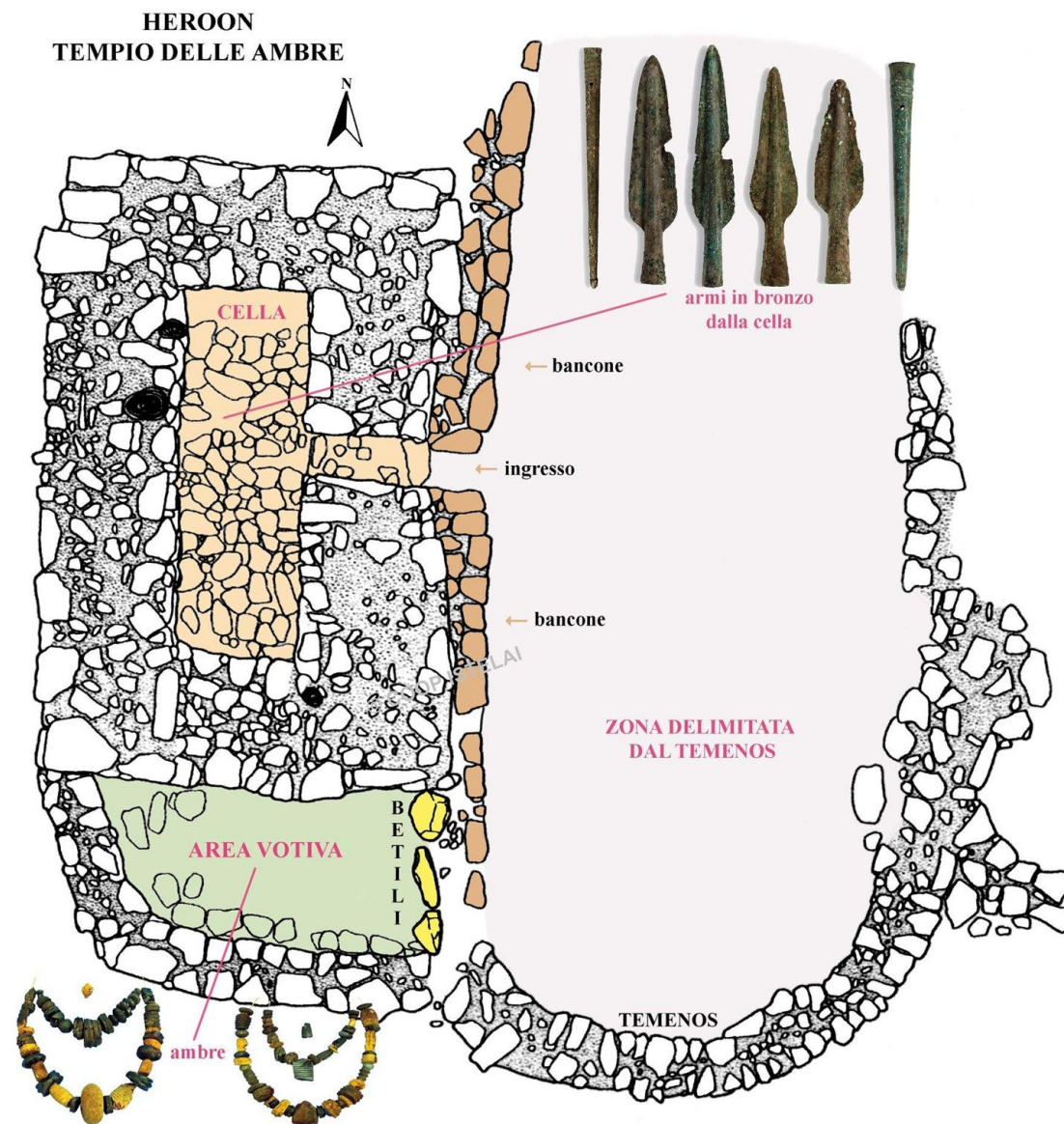


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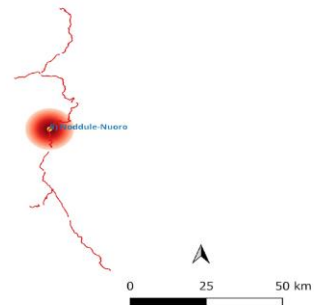
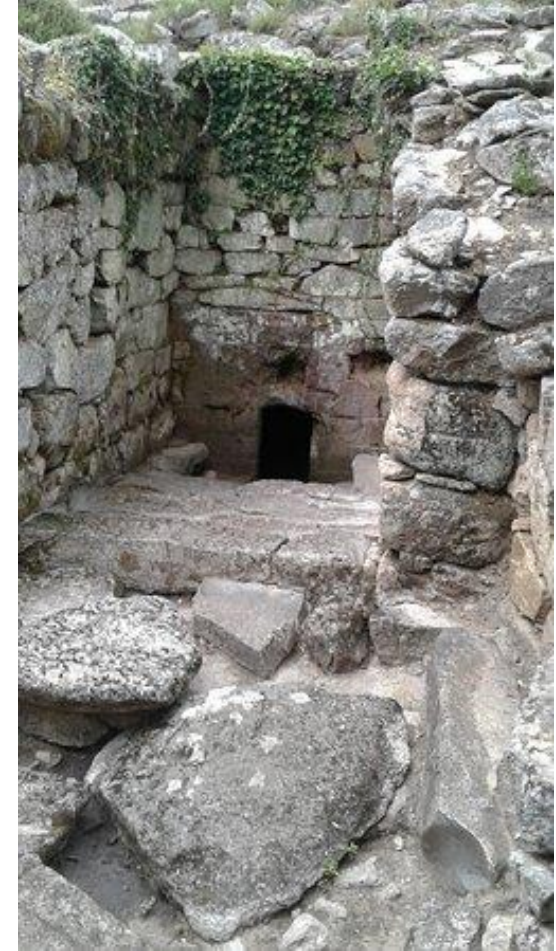




The largest discovery of Baltic amber in the island, consisting in necklace beads and working scraps, suggesting the existence of a processing and redistribution center

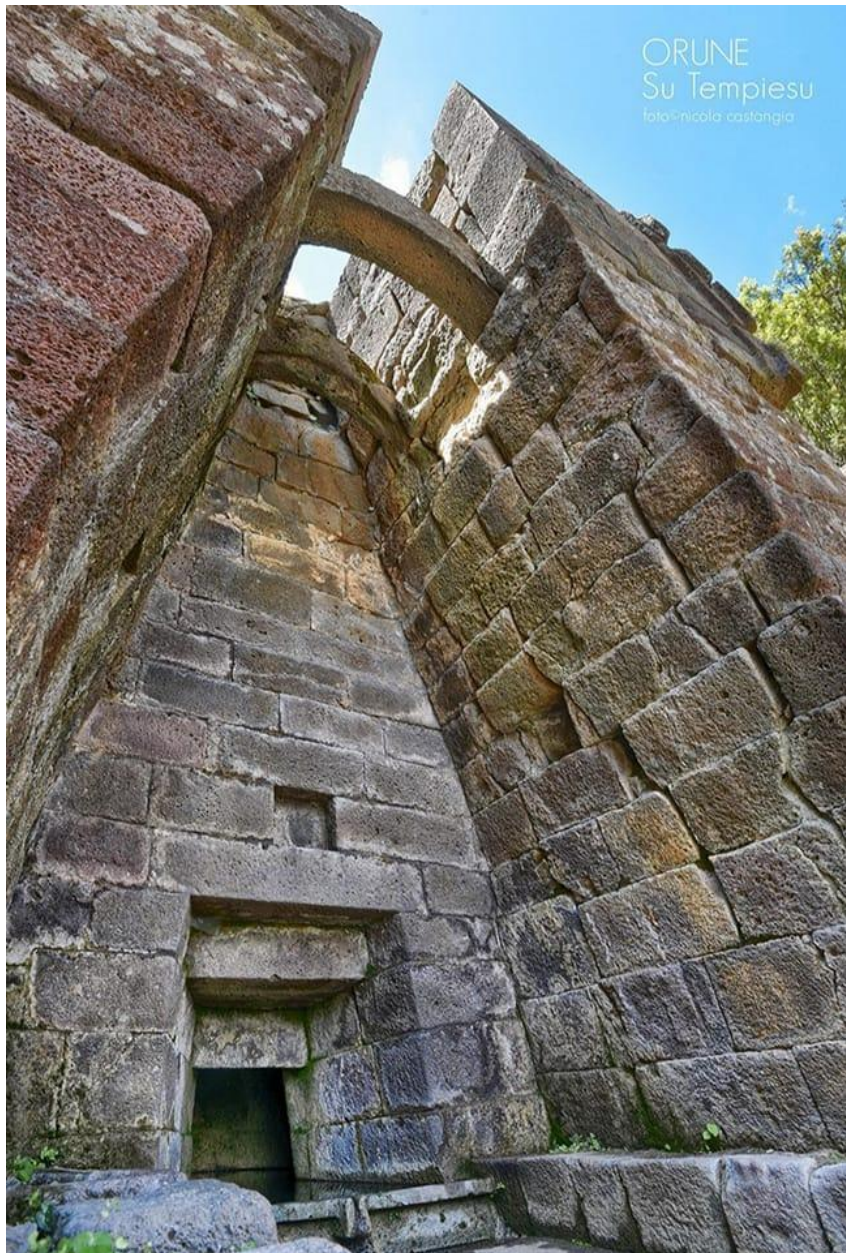


Noddule-Nuoro

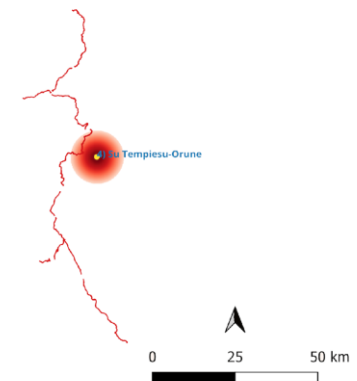
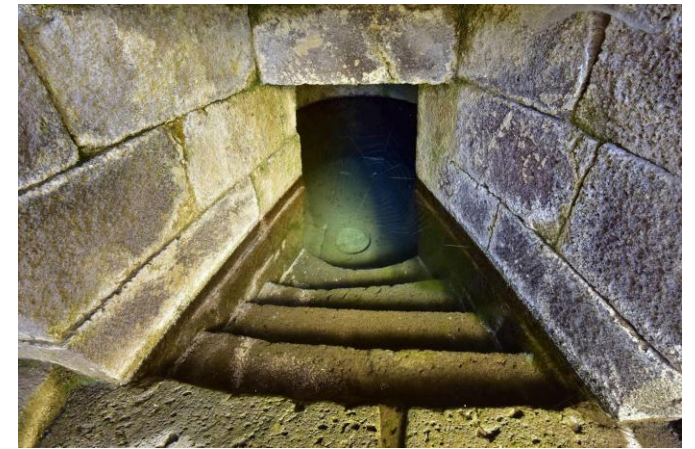
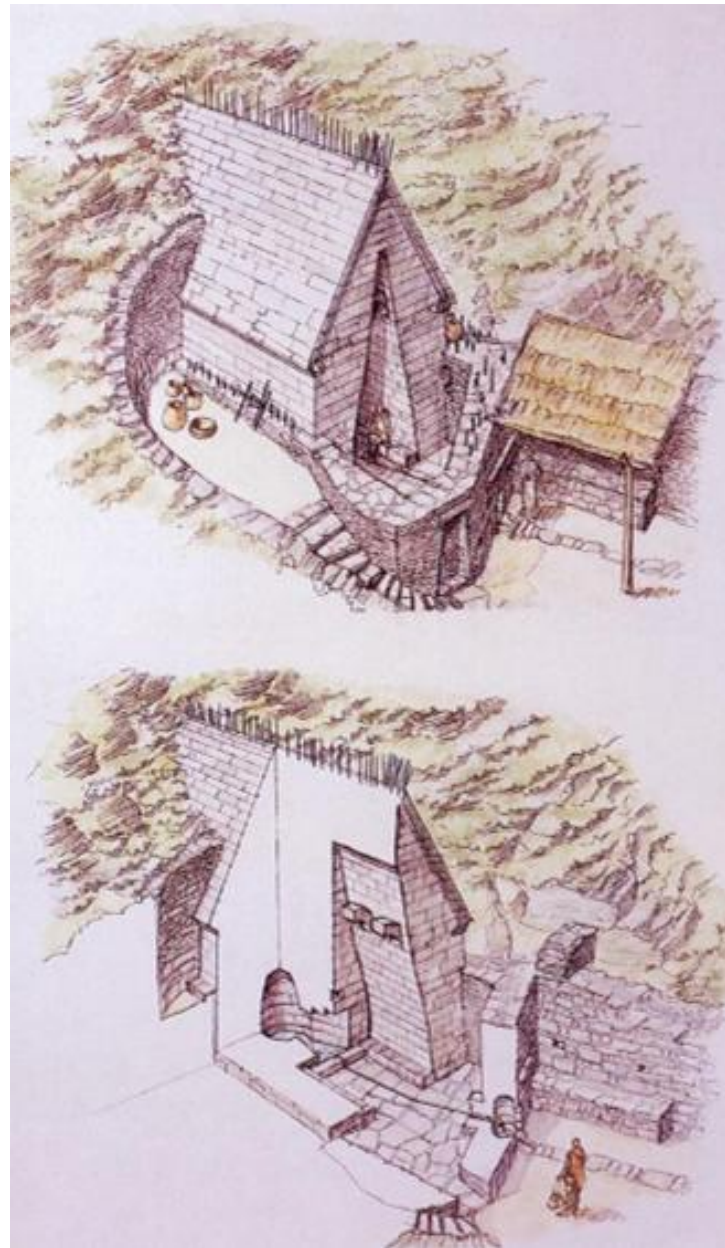


Orune-Su Tempiesu



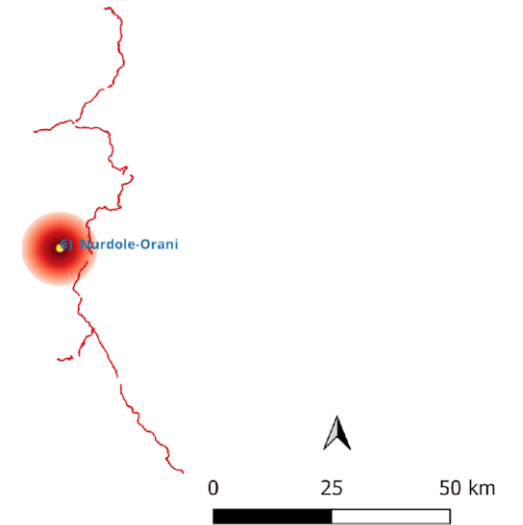
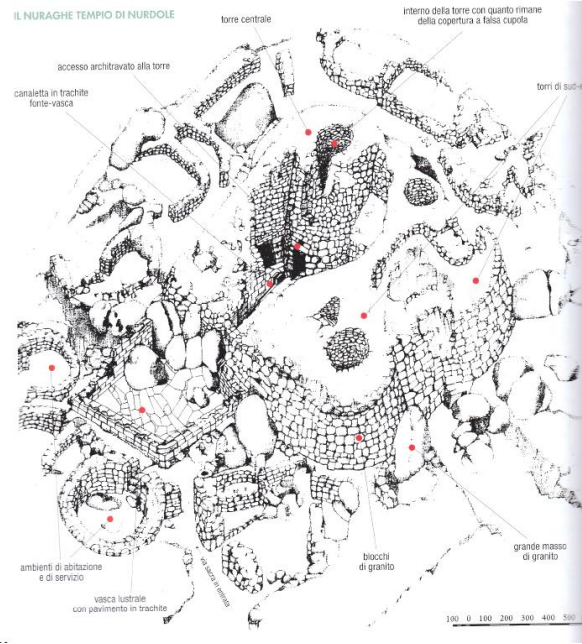


ORUNE
Su Tempiesu
foto: nicola castongia

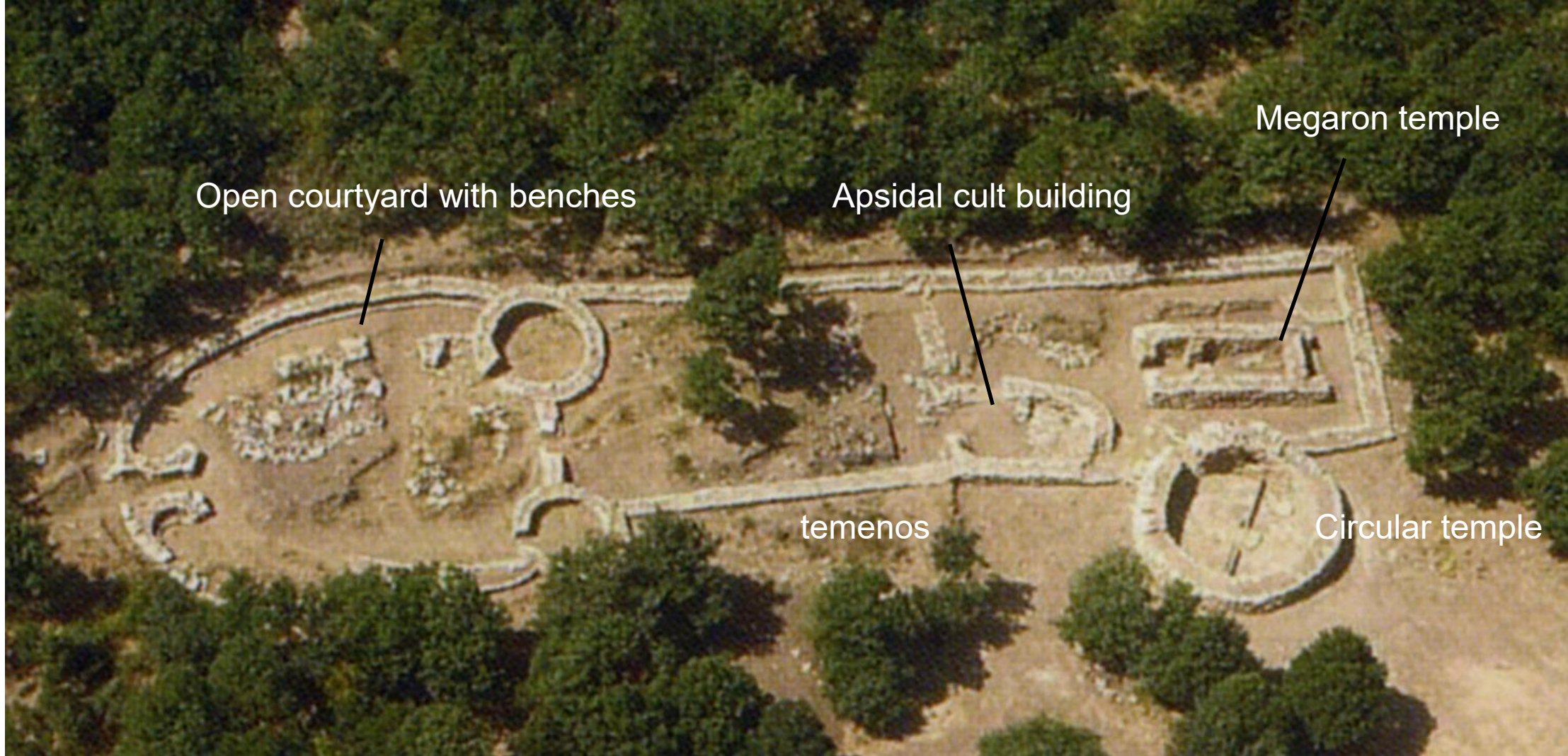


The only temple preserving the upper part with a double pitched roof

Nuraghe Nurdole-Orani







Open courtyard with benches

Apsidal cult building

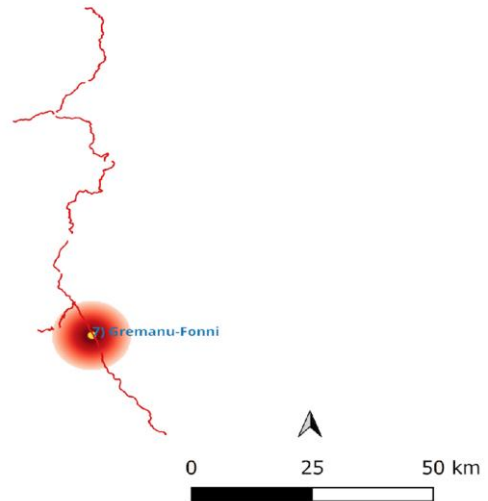
Megaron temple

temenos

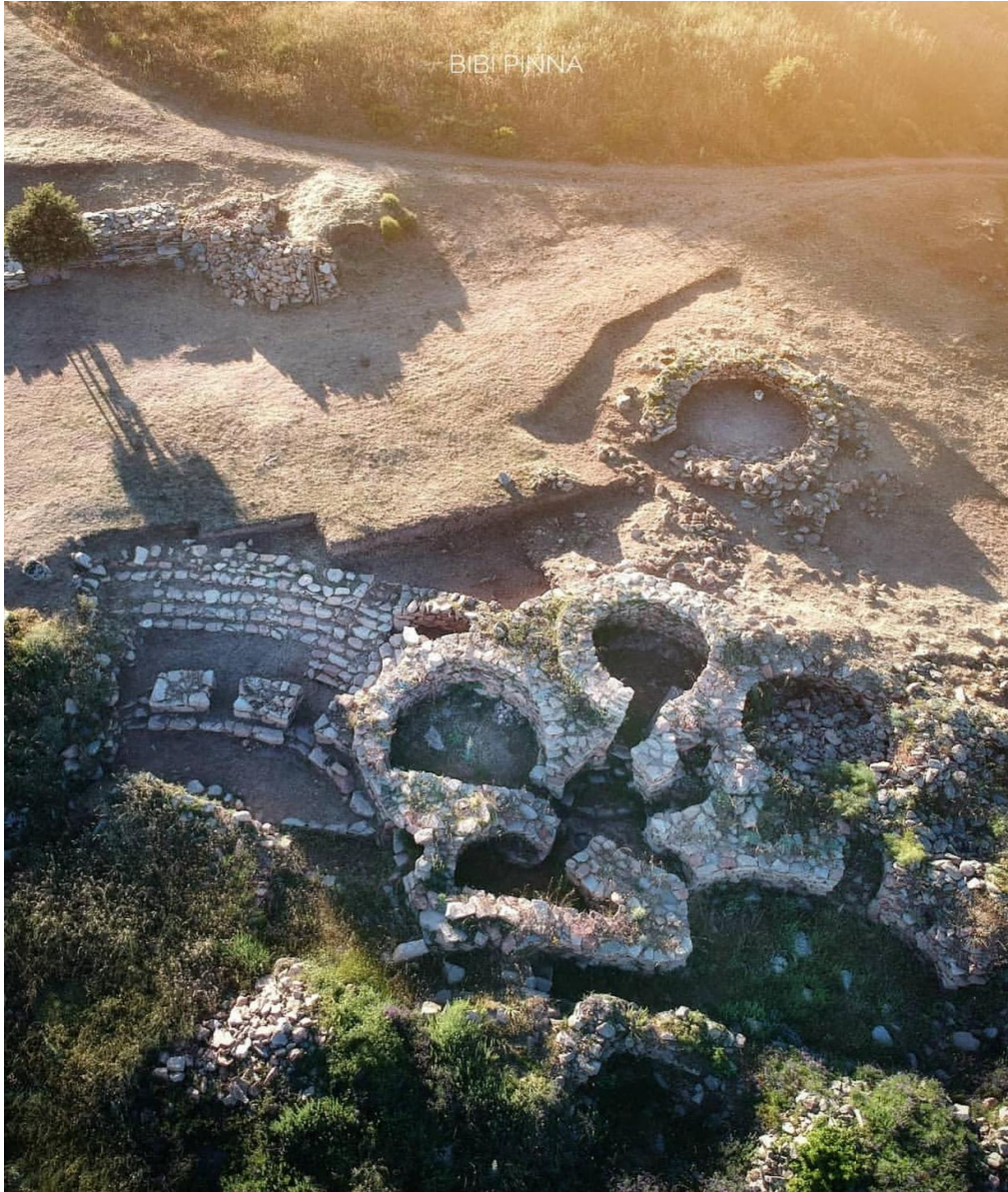
Circular temple

Gremanu-Fonni

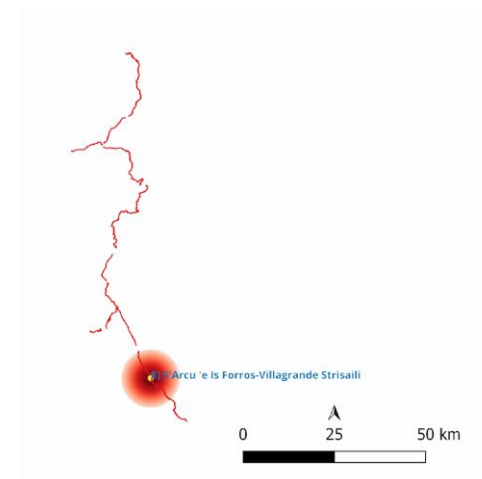
Gremanu-Fonni



S'Arcu 'e is Forros-Villagrande Strisaili



S'Arcu 'e is Forros-Villagrande Strisaili

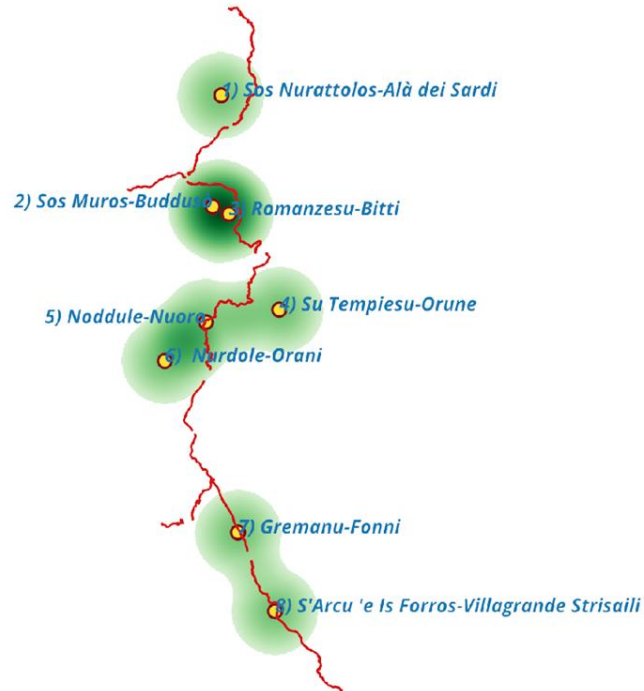




S'Arcu 'e Is Forros



The sanctuaries location



Located directly on the route alignment

- Romanzesu (Bitti)
- Noddule (Nuoro)
- Gremanu-Fonni
- S'Arcu 'e is Forros-Villagrande Strisaili

• Situated within less than 5 km from the way

- Sos Nurattolos-Alà dei Sardi
- Sos Muros-Buddusò
- Su Tempiesu-Orune
- Nurdole-Orani

Different roles and
Authority depending on
the location?

Circulation of prestige goods along the route

- Internal circulation of raw metal and bronze items
- Circulation of Imports, from raw materials to elaborated luxury goods
- A trade route

The amber route



Fibulae and prestige goods from the Italian peninsula

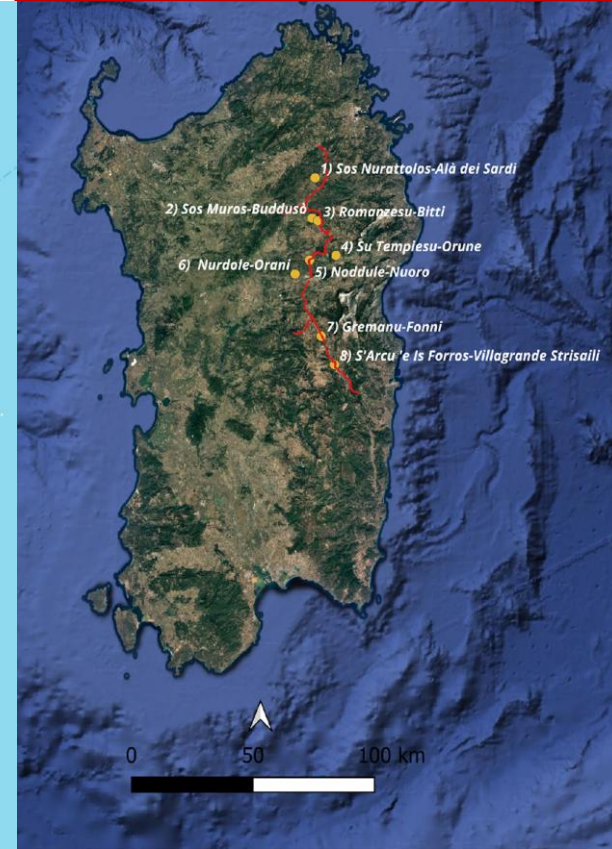
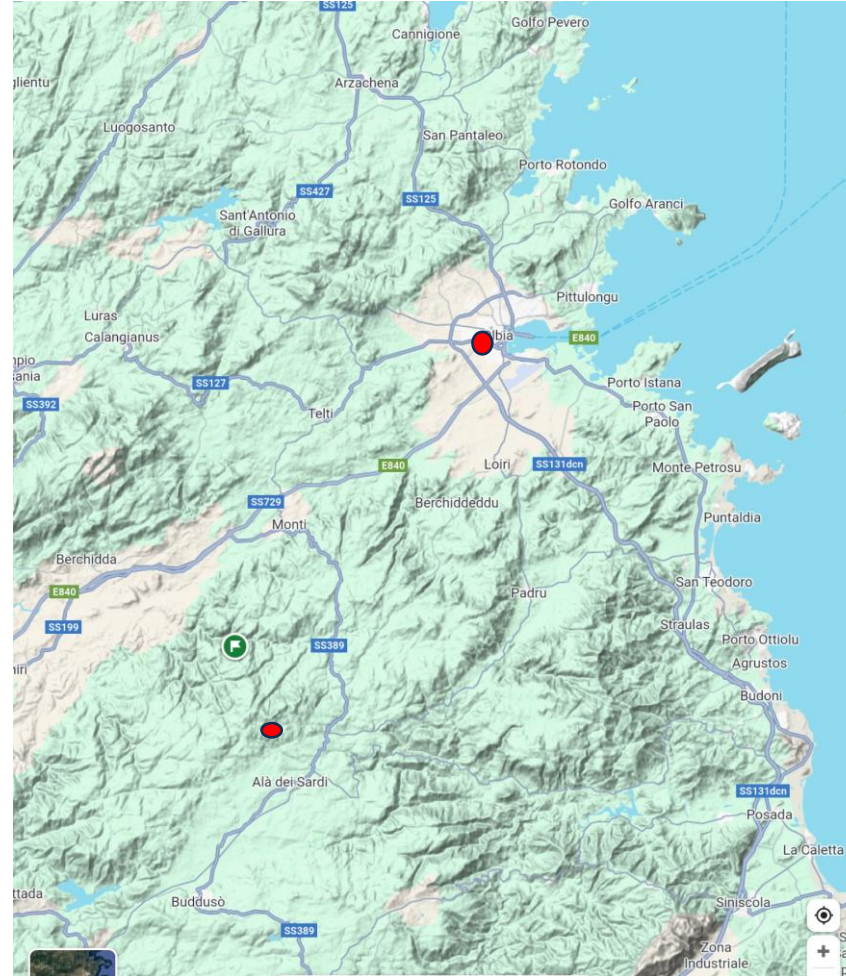


Phoenician culture/influence goods

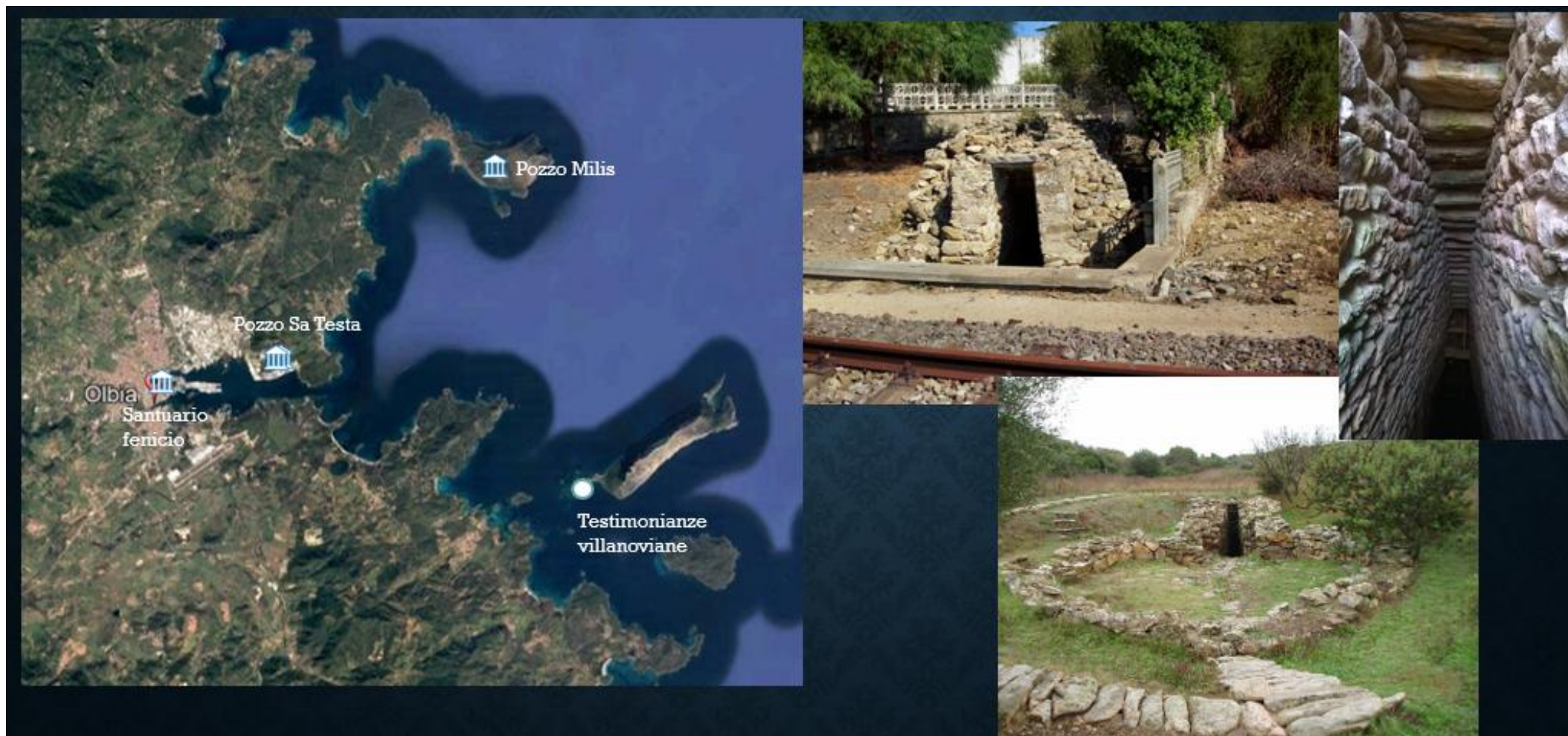


Just an internal way or was it connected to the coast?

- At the moment no sanctuaries known up to the North
- It's realistic that the way started in the coast, in Olbia's gulf
- A roman road started in Olbia following a natural valley that connects Olbia's gulf with Ala dei Sardi, where the first sanctuary is
- A connection with the coast and with the natural port explains the arrival and circulation of foreign goods



OLBIA'S GULF ARCHEOLOGICAL EVIDENCES



A sacred well in the natural port of Olbia and a nuraghe converted into a temple could be the perfect beginning of the way.

A Phoenician Temple and foundation, but also traces of Villanova groups in Tavolara island.

A sacred way or a system of sanctuaries controlling an important route?



- Two types of locations: along passage (e.g. Sos Muros, Romanzesu) or in visually/strategically controlling spots (e.g. Sos Nurattolos, Nurdole).
- Arrival and accumulation of foreign prestige goods (amber, glass beads, fibulae), coming from coastal landing sites via the route.
- Evidence of craft activity on semi-processed materials like amber (e.g. Romanzesu) or metallurgical production (e.g. Arcu 'e Is Forros), indicating control over the circulation of luxury goods.
- Presence of high-quality artifacts from different parts of Sardinia (e.g. Sant'Imbenia amphorae, fine ceramics, metal items), indicating internal circulation and redistribution.



The arrangement of sanctuaries suggests an organised system which, under religious justification, controlled the mobility of people and luxury goods along a natural communication route of particular importance, often acting as centres of internal redistribution



Thank you

Acknowledgement

The present contribution was produced as part of the research carried out within the InnTerr Project of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (DUMAS), University of Sassari.”