
Bronze Age dating from the archaeological site of Sa Osa – Cabras

Anna Depalmas*¹, Carmine Lubritto², Rita Melis³, Mark Pearce⁴, and Alessandro Usai⁵

¹University of Sassari, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences – Italy

²University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" Department of Environmental, Biological and Pharmaceutical Science and Technology – via vivaldi 43, Italy

³University of Cagliari, Department of Chemical and Geological Sciences – Italy

⁴University of Nottingham, Department of Classics and Archaeology – United Kingdom

⁵Superintendence of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape for the metropolitan city of Cagliari and the provinces of Oristano and South Sardinia – Italy

Abstract

The Bronze Age settlement of Sa Osa (Cabras), is one of the few Sardinian archaeological sites which allow us to reconstruct a complete picture on the development of the exploitation of natural resources, agricultural technologies, animal breeding and capture of the early history of Sardinia.

In the village of Sa Osa there are also interesting indications that the local community exploited local resources (e.g. river and sea fishing, pig and cattle farming, deer hunting) and engaged in specialized production activities (e.g. viticulture, pottery, making bone implements).

The rescue excavation at the site of Sa Osa dug for the first time extensively exposed a settlement without any nuragic building and walls, dated to the Middle, Recent and Final Bronze Age.

The settlement consisted of structures made of perishable materials. Now all that remains are elliptical or circular footprints, filled with a rich deposit of ceramics, stone tools and animal remains.

The occupation in the different phases is testified by stratifications of anthropic and sedimentary layers, and also by cylindrical wells and hollows different in shape and size. Most of these wells can be considered as structures for water or food storage. Some dating was performed on samples from different structures and wells.

On the basis of the hypothesis, amply supported by the material culture assemblages of some of the wells, that they were filled in the course of single episodes, we modelled the dates for two wells for which multiple radiocarbon dates are available, structure Kappa-Kappa and structure N. In both cases the OxCal 'Combine' command gave modelled calibrated dates that were statistically robust, allowing us to date both the fills of structures Kappa-Kappa and N to *1266-1126 cal BC* (at 95.4 % confidence). Although the relative sequence of the fills could not be elucidated through the radiocarbon dates, it is clear that both fills are to be situated in the timeframe which is conventionally referred to as the last part of the Recent Bronze Age and the early part of the Final Bronze Age in continental Italy.

*Speaker

Keywords: Bronze Age, Sardinia, settlement, wells, resource exploitation