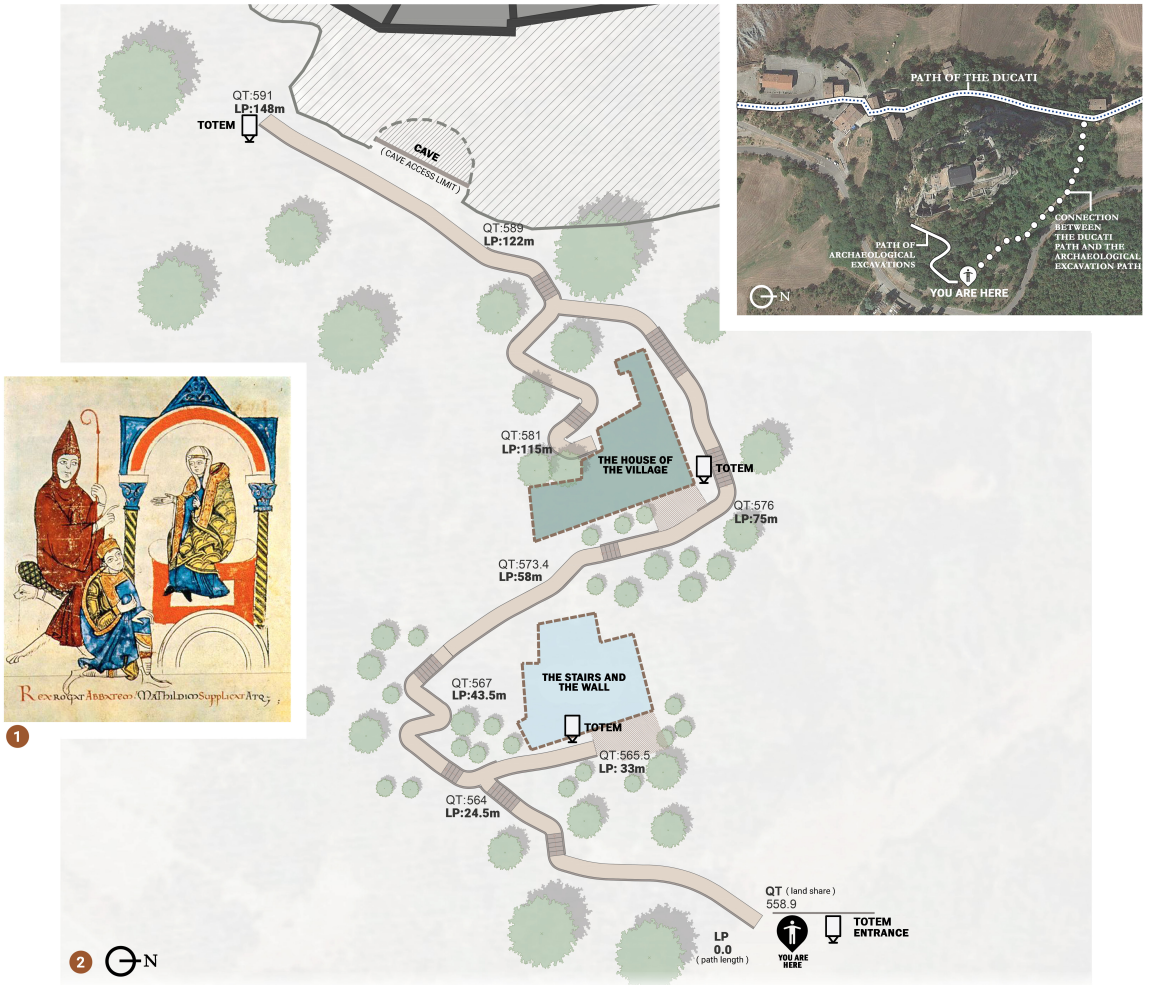


THE ANCIENT VILLAGE OF CANOSSA

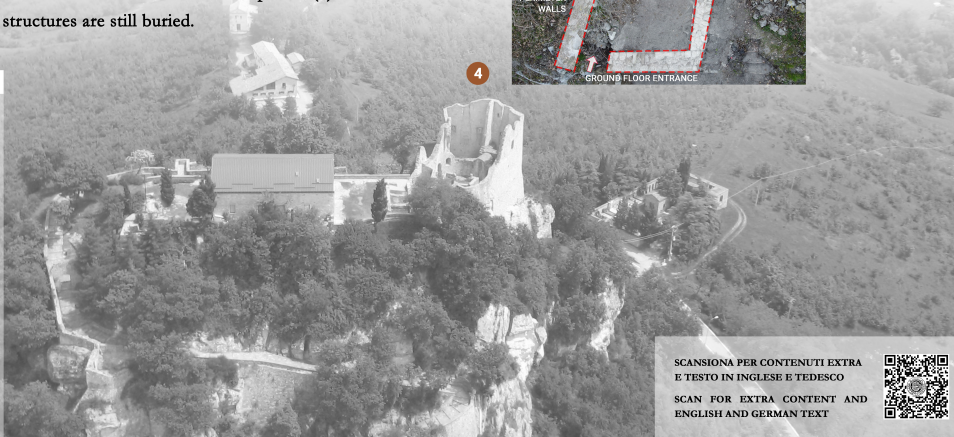
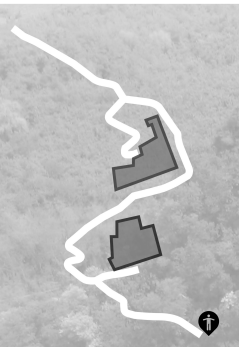
The Castle of Canossa is a symbol of European medieval history for two main reasons. First of all, it belonged to an important personality of the time, namely Matilda of Tuscany (also referred to as “the Great Countess”), who ruled over Tuscany, Emilia and various lands between Lombardy and Lazio. Secondly, the castle was the setting of an event of great resonance during the so-called Investiture Controversy. After being excommunicated by the Pope, King Henry IV (crowned emperor in 1084) came to Italy. He met Matilda and the abbot Hugh of Cluny in the chapel of San Nicolò in Montezane (in Quattro Castella, in the province of Reggio Emilia), as depicted in the codex Vita Mathildis by Donizone (1), and afterwards he remained penitent from the 25th to the 27th of January 1077 to have his excommunication revoked by Pope Gregory VII, who was staying at the Castle of Canossa as a guest of Matilda of Tuscany.



Because of these events, archaeological investigations have been carried out around the castle from 1877 to present day. In particular, between 2017 and 2022 excavations have been conducted on the eastern side of the rock of Canossa, in the area of the so-called “Borgo” (“village”). The name comes from the fact that there used to be an inhabited, walled area here, linked to the castle. The excavations brought to light a number of structures that give a first idea of the aspect of the village between the 13th and the 14th centuries. The created path (2) enables visitors to move through this area and to see: the remains of the wall; one of the access stairs (3) and a house of the late of last medieval period (4). The other structures are still buried.



CANOSSA TRAIL MAP



SCANSIONA PER CONTENUTI EXTRA E TESTO IN INGLESE E TEDESCO
SCAN FOR EXTRA CONTENT AND ENGLISH AND GERMAN TEXT