

THE STAIRS AND THE WALL



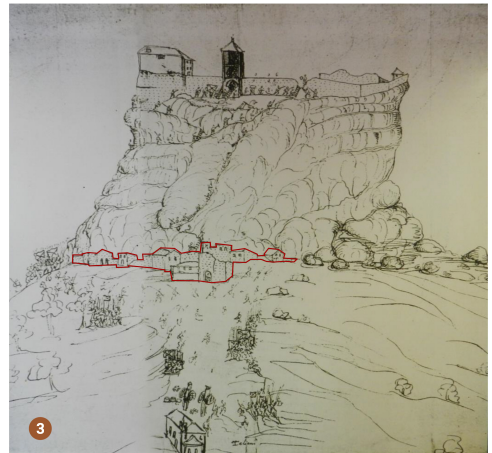
(front view of staircase)

Here there was one of the entrances through the fortification wall of the village of Canossa. The wall, also depicted in a 16th century engraving portraying an assault on the castle (3), was staggered to make way for an access staircase carved into the rock (1). Today only some sections of this wall, north-south oriented, remain. It has been built with little sandstone blocks placed in horizontal rows, a typical construction technique of the 13th and the 14th centuries (2).



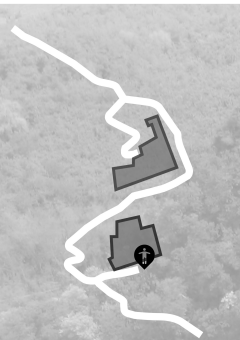
(frontal view of a part of the wall)

Near the staircase (1) there are a number of places where the rock has been worked to create holes for the insertion of wooden elements and a gutter for rainwater disposal. As indicated by the archaeological finds, the village was intentionally abandoned between the 15th and the 16th centuries. Written records and the engraving itself (3) prove that, in this period, both the castle and the village underwent two heavy sieges. These events, together with the crumbly nature of the rock at the base of the buildings, led the inhabitants of the village to leave their houses on the slope and to seek a new place to live.



(16th century engraving)

CANOSSA TRAIL MAP



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



Soprintendenza Archeologia,
belle arti e paesaggio per la
città metropolitana di Bologna
e le province di Modena,
Reggio Emilia e Ferrara



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