

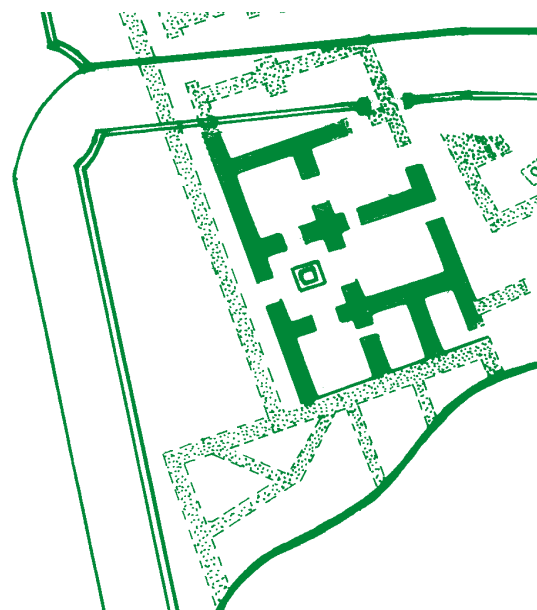
# TORROX LIGHTHOUSE ROMAN SETTLEMENT



The archeological site of the Torrox Lighthouse, since it was first excavated at the beginning of the century, has offered material evidence confirming its importance as an agricultural and fishing centre, with a thriving export trade. The extent of the «villa», the fishing activities, the relative proximity to the African coast (where there are numerous unexcavated Spanish settlements), the commercial value of the salting industry, all demonstrate that the zone had many contacts with other parts of the Mediterranean. Some think the site could have been connected to a more important one, possibly Caviculum, which was situated on the «Itinerario de Antonino» («Antoninus' Way») which ran between Mainoba (at the mouth of the river Vélez), and Sexi (present day Almuñecar).

This is inside the lighthouse precinct, where some of the room-walls are still standing and this was possibly an area of private houses. These were well decorated, although the materials employed in the construction were not lavish. However, the ornamentation helped to give a more luxurious appearance. All the rooms had mosaics, some of which are now preserved in the Archeological Museum in Málaga. There are still some tesselas (small pieces of mosaic) in situ and in some corners one can see fragments of plastered wall with a decorative red line. All the rooms are placed around the atrium, a type of courtyard with a small trough or bowl in the centre for collecting rainwater. The villa dates from around the third century A.D.

VILLA



FACTORY/NECROPOLIS

The presence of pits or troughs built of Roman cement, small pieces of bricks, hard stone and lined with *opus signinum*, denotes the existence of a factory for fish-salting and for the production of *garum* (a paste made from fish offal, small fish and salt, an essential condiment in the cooking of the time). The intrinsic coastal nature of the activity and the proximity of the salt pans which permitted costs to be kept low, made it possible for the industry to expand and spread its trade further afield. The salted fish of Bética, and above all, the *garum*, became famous throughout the Roman world. The necropolis is situated in two zones, one is found next to the modern buildings, where graves have been found dating from the first to the fourth centuries. Once the body had been placed in the grave, together with some personal possessions, it would be covered with

GABINETE PEDAGÓGICO DE BELLAS ARTES

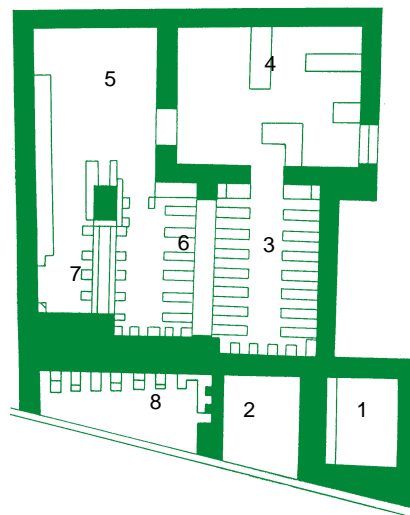
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tégulas (tiles) in the form of a pitched roof. Two pieces of tégula or small square slabs of earthenware would be placed at the ends.

The other area where graves have been found is on the beach, and these are of a later date. Some were constructed out of the former salt-pans. The extensive nature of the necropolis appears to reinforce theories which have been put forward that the Torrox Lighthouse complex is only part of a much more extensive settlement.



### PUBLIC BATHS

«Termas», or public baths, were buildings which possessed all the necessities for the care of the body (changing rooms, baths with cold, tepid and hot water) for men and women. The baths at Torrox have suffered serious deterioration, but it is still possible to make a study of them. They are not excessively large, being similar in style to private baths. The building is of rectangular design, to which a series of rooms has been added on its southern and eastern sides.

The room plan is as follows:

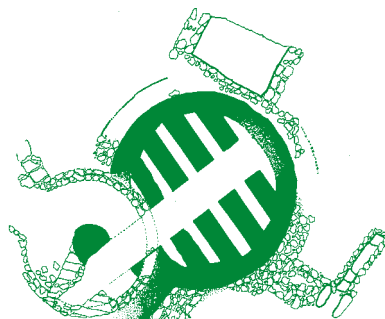
Rooms 4 and 5 were the praefurnia, where the furnace and the coppers were installed. These heated the hypocaust (the space under the floor through which the hot air circulated) for rooms 3 and 6 which had large jets of hot water, and also for room 7, which was a type of steam-bath.

Rooms 1, 2 and 8 had tepid water.

The baths date from the first to the third century A.D.

### CERAMIC FURNACES

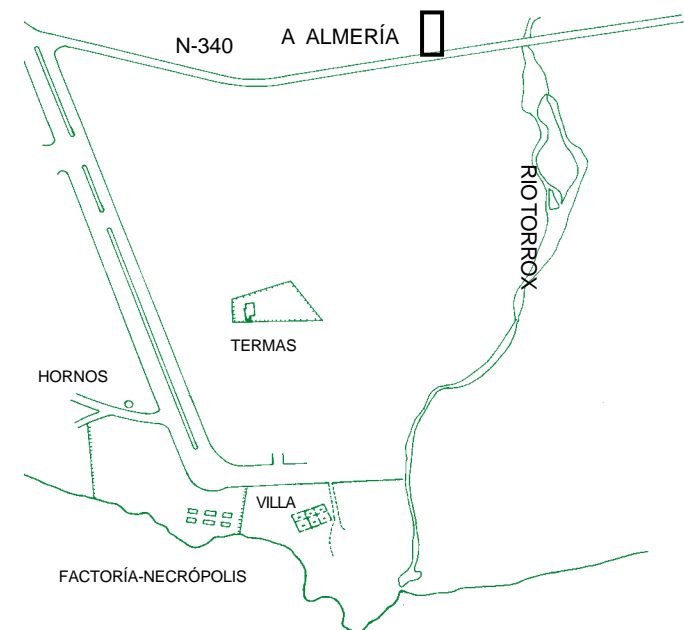
Of these only the lower parts up to the grill are preserved. The construction would have been of a large, vaulted central passage with narrow side galleries built from bricks bound together with «cal» (lime). The furnaces owe their presence to the nearby garum factory, for which containers such as those produced in this pottery would be needed to transport the produce. They date from the first century A.D.



### NOTICE

For further information you can go to the Department of Culture at Torrox Town hall where you could receive the key in order to enter the archaeological site, telf. 952-538200.

The Pedagogical Bureau of Fine Art of Málaga has at your disposal didactic material for educational centres.



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