



The Fortifications

Large ramparts on the plateau of the *Rosenstein*

Several fortifications argue for settlements from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages and their remains cross some of the walks today. Nevertheless many insecurities do exist regarding an exact dating of the walls. The origin of the walls may possibly be assigned to different epochs. There are sound arguments based on old excavations of the early 20th century which can be detected in the text and the timeline.

Wall C

(length 150 m, deepness of trench between 4 and 10 m, width of trench between 10 and 25 m)

This rampart is placed at a natural constriction of the plateau and protects the whole western spur of the *Rosenstein*, which means an area of about 4,5 ha. It consists of an internal wall (main wall), a trench and an outer wall (fore-wall). At some points, natural rock formations were included while building the wall. First excavations conducted by *Friedrich Hertlein* in 1904 and by *Franz Keller* in 1920 yielded remains of a masonry wall. *Keller* recovered three layers of burned wood at least, which is a hint about a fortification destroyed by fire. The former width of the rampart adds up to 5 m with a minimum height of 2 m. Most probable the lower fore-wall also consisted of a masonry wall. The trench and wall slopes visible today are a retroactive piling consisting of wall debris.

It is likely that this old fortification was used again in the Late Middle Ages for protecting the bailey. Maybe the extensive debris fan underneath the plateau on the northern slope conveys that the trench was reutilised as an obstacle by emptying out the debris. External signs for a medieval fortification are not visible at surface. But one cannot exclude that here, similar to the Castle, building material was stolen or reused elsewhere.

1. picture:

excavated profile of *Wall C*, 14 m north of the path (according to *F. Keller*)

From top to bottom:

- humus
- partially burned stone packing
- burned layer of wood
- stone layer with humus
- burned layer of wood
- stone packing
- layer of limestone slabs

2. picture:



There are three prehistoric fortifications on the *Rosenstein*. Together with the remains of ramparts of the nearby hills *Mittelberg* with the *Teufelsmauer* (devil's wall) and *Hochberg* with its circular wall, this region shows a high density of this kind of constructions.

3. picture-series:

- older and younger construction phase of the oppidum of *Manching* from Late Latène period (County of *Ingolstadt*, Bavaria)
- the old castle near *Bundenbach* from the Late Latène period (County of *Birkenfeld*, Rhineland-Palatinate)
- early Middle Ages: *Banzer Burg* (County of *Lichtenfels*, Bavaria)
- early Middle Ages: *Burg Roßthal* (County *Neumarkt i. Opf.*, Bavaria)