

Historic centre of Siena

Historical background - Engineering geological conditions and problems:

Siena is the embodiment of a medieval city. Its inhabitants pursued their rivalry with Florence right into the area of urban planning. Throughout the centuries, they preserved their city's Gothic appearance, acquired between the 12th and 15th centuries. During this period the work of Duccio, Lorenzetti brothers and Simone Martini was to influence the course of Italian and, more broadly, European art. The whole city of Siena, built around the Piazza del Campo, was devised as a work of art that blends into the surrounding landscape.

Both the studies made by the GNDCI and the Autorità di Bacino of the Arno River didn't evidence the presence of landslides or any other geological hazard. The map of hydrogeological restrictions realized by the city's administration doesn't include the historical centre of the city.

Investigations and protection measures already realized:

An example of study applied to the Santa Chiara Monastery deals with the possibility of application of geophysical methods to the exploration of the ground in order to understand its physical – mechanical features. This information helps to be able to assess stability conditions of historical buildings, in case there's evidence of fractures or other structural problems or, as in this particular case, in view of the realisation of works in the vicinity.

Supplementary information:

The Committee decided to inscribe the property in 1995 considering that Siena is an outstanding medieval city that has preserved its character and quality. The city is a work of dedication and imagination in which the buildings have been designed to fit into the overall planned urban fabric, and also to form a whole with the surrounding cultural landscape.

References on studies already done:

GABBANI G., CENSINI G., CIACCI G., MOSCHINI B. e MOSCONI L. (2000) "Sul modello bidimensionale del sottosuolo ottenibile mediante tecniche di prospezione geofisica, per lo studio dei terreni sottostanti le fondazioni di edifici di importanza storico – culturale: due esempi di intervento a Siena e in provincia". Atti del Convegno GEOBEN 2000 Torino 7-9 giugno 2000, pag. 511-517



The Cathedral of the city
(<http://www.egm.it/comuni/siena.html>)



Palazzo Salimbeni (www.sienaol.it)



Aerial view of Piazza del Campo
(<http://www.egm.it/comuni/siena.html>)